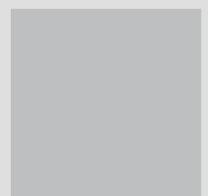
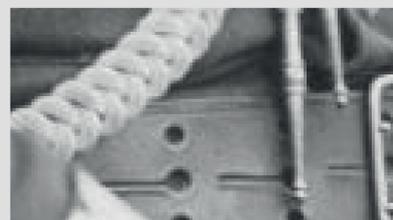


# Mariusz Zaruski



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**BE** BIOGRAFIE  
WYSTAWY  
ELEMENTARNE

# “I Led Poles into the Mountains and onto the Sea...”



**A**n underground activist and exile. A Legionist and an uhlán, decorated with the Cross of Valor five times. A tireless social activist, educator, and friend of the young. A mountaineer and sailor, whose life credo was making young Poles “as hard as granite and as pure and deep as the sea.” He paved the way to Polish independence with indomitable perseverance, and after its reinstatement laid foundations for its sovereignty.

← Zaruski as the Polish President’s aide-de-camp at his study in the Belweder Palace, mid-1920s

▣ H. Stępień, *Mariusz Zaruski. Opowieść biograficzna*, Warsaw 1997



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1867

# Childhood and Youth

**Z**aruski was born in 1867 in Dumaniv in Podolia. He received patriotic education from his father, a participant of the January Uprising, and his grandfather, who was a veteran of the November Uprising. Young Mariusz began his school instruction in Mohyliv-Podilskyi. He attended extracurricular clandestine courses in the Polish language and Polish history. He continued his education in Kamianets Podilskyi, where his uncle, a pro-independence activist, took him under his wings.

→ Four-year-old Mariusz Zaruski in his hometown of Dumaniv, situated on the picturesquely twisting and turning Smotrych, which came under Russian control in 1793.

📖 H. Stępień, *Mariusz Zaruski. Opowieść biograficzna*, Warsaw 1997



About a dozen kilometers south of Dumaniv, “the Kamyanets stronghold stuck out” over the deep ravine of Smotrych, which was how Henryk Sienkiewicz referred to the Kamianets Podilskyi stronghold.

📖 Bartosz Januszewski



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1885

# First Love – Black Sea



← Zaruski as a university student. Emboldened by his successful attempts at painting the young Podolian became a student of the Academy of Fine Art. in Odessa.

📖 H. Stępień, *Mariusz Zaruski. Opowieść biograficzna*, Warsaw 1997

↓ The Potemkin Stairs in Odessa – early 20th-century postcard. From the top of those stairs Zaruski first saw the sea, with which he fell deeply in love.

📖 public domain

In 1885 Zaruski began studying mathematics and physics in Odessa. He tried to capture the seaside landscape of the harbor metropolis on canvas. During vacations young Mariusz worked on ships headed for the Middle and Far East and Africa. The fascination with the sea and traveling incited him to become a student of the Maritime School, which was also when he distinguished himself as a poet. One of his first lyrical attempts was a poem entitled “Chopin’ Prelude.”



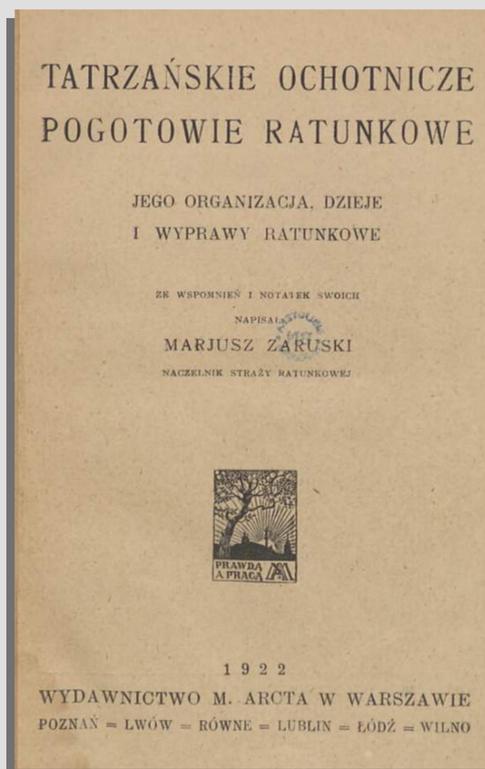
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# Mountaineer and Rescuer

1901

In 1901 he returned from exile and married Izabela Kietlińska. The newlyweds left Russia and settled in Cracow. Having graduated in painting from the local Academy of Fine Arts, Zaruski settled in Zakopane in 1906. A member of the Tatra Society, he became a promoter of mountain tourism and a pioneer of winter mountaineering. His crowning achievement in that sphere was the establishment of the Tatra Volunteer Rescue Service (TOPR). Zaruski became its first head.



➤ The title page of the first edition of Zaruski's history of the TOPR.

📍 National Library



➔ Zaruski on a mountain top in the Tatras.

📍 Tatra Museum in Zakopane



➤ Zaruski with his wife at Villa Krywań. The pension run by Izabela was visited by such eminent figures as Ignacy Daszyński, Władysław Reymont, and brothers Bronisław and Józef Piłsudski.

📍 H. Stępień, *Mariusz Zaruski. Opowieść biograficzna*, Warsaw 1997

Zaruski in front of the TOPR Rescue Guard in Kuźnice near Zakopane.

📍 Tatra Museum in Zakopane



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***When I think back to the strong bodies of the Somalians, the broad-shouldered Norwegians with a meek gaze, the short Japanese, or even the Samoyedic people [...], I pity our great and talented nation. Off to the mountains – that’s the best gymnastic arena. There is struggle, obstacles, and dangers. There is fresh air and sunshine. There are Dantean sights and nature’s pink smiles, the primeval being’s sighs, and echoes of the dusk of history.***

1912

# Legionist and uhlan

In 1912 Zaruski joined the Union of Armed Combat, where he met Władysław Belina-Prażmowski. In August 1914, upon Józef Piłsudski's order, he led Zakopane riflemen to Kielce. During 1915–1916 he fought in the cavalry detachments of the Polish Legions. During the Oath Crisis he was detained in the Przemyśl Fortress (1917). In 1918 he became the commander of the Polish Military Organization in Podhale.



↑ Zaruski (in the foreground) surrounded by uhlan from the 1st Brigade of the Polish Legions.  
 📄 National Digital Archives

➤ Zaruski as the Captain of the 1st Uhlán Regiment. In 1917, after Belina-Prażmowski's dismissal, he became the unit's commander. He and his unit fought against the Russians in Volhynia and Polesie.  
 📄 public domain

➔ In the 1st Uhlán Regiment – Zaruski and his beloved horse Orzeł [eagle] presenting a set of horse tack.  
 📄 H. Stępień, *Mariusz Zaruski. Opowieść biograficzna*, Warsaw 1997



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1918

# Fighting for Spiš



In November 1918, already as a Captain of the Polish Army, Zaruski began to liberate Polish villages in Spiš. Fighting against the Czechoslovakian detachments, by the end of the year the Poles seized a large portion of the Spiš lien. Unfortunately, due to the superpowers' decision, in July 1920 the land captured was incorporated into Czechoslovakia. For his participation in the campaign Zaruski was promoted to the rank of Major.



↑ Mariusz Zaruski, ca. 1920  
📄 public domain

← General Tadeusz Rozwadowski — the first chief of the General Staff of the Polish Army. Upon his order, by the end of 1918 Zaruski had seized the terrains to the Spišská Belá-Podolíneć-Stará Ľubovňa line.  
📄 National Digital Archives



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1919

# On the Bolshevik Front Line



← Mariusz Zaruski, 1920. For his contribution to the Polish-Soviet War he was awarded with the Virtuti Militari War Order and promoted to the rank of Colonel.

📄 public domain

↓ Józef Piłsudski visiting Polish Army detachments after the capture of Vilnius. Two days earlier, on 19 April 1919, the 11th Uhlan Regiment commanded by Zaruski was the first one to enter the city.

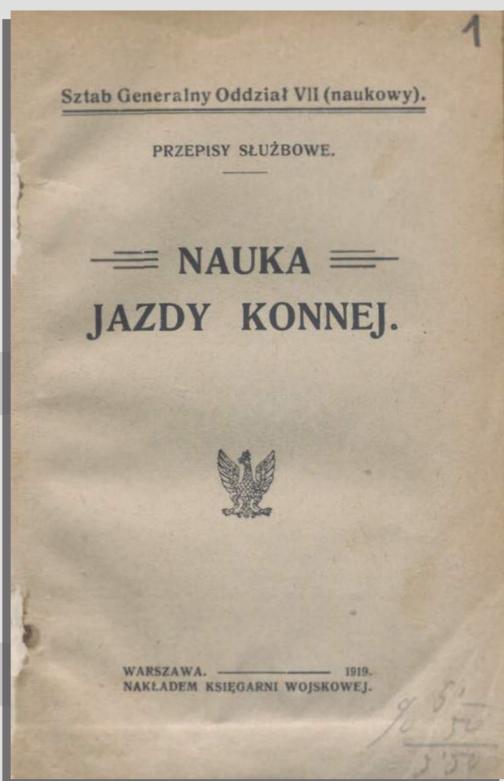
📄 public domain

In April 1919 Zaruski participated in the liberation of Vilnius from the Bolsheviks. In the summer of 1919 he took part in heavy fighting in the Vilnius region, successfully defending the Merkinė–Valkininkai–Trakai line. In September his regiment managed to hold positions on the River Dvina. He was decorated with as many as five Crosses of Valor for the many months of fighting on the Lithuanian-Belarusian section of the front line.



← In 1919 upon order from the Ministry of Military Affairs Zaruski wrote two official sets of rules and regulations: *Rząd koński* [set of horse tack] and *Nauka jazdy konnej* [horse-riding training].

📄 National Library



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1923

# Polish President's Aide-De-Camp



↑ Mariusz Zaruski became President Wojciechowski's general aide-de-camp upon Józef Piłsudski's recommendation. Photograph: Zaruski (the fourth from the right) at the Marshal's name day party. Sulejówek, 1925.

📄 National Digital Archives

After the war Zaruski remained in the cavalry. On 1 March 1923 he became Polish President Stanisław Wojciechowski's aide-de-camp. On 15 August 1924, on the fourth anniversary of the Battle of Warsaw, he was promoted to Brigadier General. The intensifying dispute between Piłsudski and Wojciechowski involved Zaruski – a supporter of Piłsudski and statesman – in a conflict of loyalty. His retirement was an honorary way out of the situation.

↓ Retiring General Zaruski bid farewell by fellow military men from the Polish President's Lifeguard. Warsaw, 30 April 1926.

📄 National Digital Archives



↑ Stanisław Wojciechowski's greeting at the Zakopane Railway Station (1925). Zaruski walking left off the Polish President. One of the aide-de-camp's duties was informing the head of the state about the mood in the army and the Ministry of Military Affairs.

📄 National Digital Archives



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1924

# Sailor and Scout

Aside from mountaineering, the General's second biggest passion was sailing. Zaruski carried out his mission of "bringing the Poles out onto the sea" throughout the interwar period. In 1924 he became the chairman of the Polish Yacht Club, the first association of boating enthusiasts in the Second Republic of Poland. In 1929 he led to the purchase of *Dar Pomorza* [Pomerania's gift] – a frigate used by students of the Maritime School in Gdynia. In 1930 he was one of the initiators of the transformation of the Maritime and River League into the Maritime and Colonial League.



↑ The consecration of the State Maritime School in Gdynia (1929). In the first row from left to right: the School director Commodore Lieutenant Adam Mohuczy (the first), Commodore Józef Unrug (fourth), Chełm Bishop Stanisław Okoniewski (the fifth), and Zaruski (the sixth).  
 📄 National Digital Archives

➤ Zaruski as the director and main instructor at the Maritime Training Center in Jastarnia, where during 1929–1932 he taught sailing and nautical helmsman courses for scouts.  
 📄 National Digital Archives



↑ During 1932–1935 Zaruski held the position of the chairman of the Polish Sailing Union. In the photograph sitting in the center during a general assembly of the Union in Warsaw (1938).  
 📄 National Digital Archives



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1934

# Under Zawisza's Sails

In 1934 on Zaruski's initiative the scouts purchased a Danish schooner named *Petrea*. Renovated and re-named *Zawisza Czarny* [Zawisza the Black], the vessel became the Polish Scouting and Guiding Association's flagship. Under Zaruski's command, the sailing ship went on 17 voyages, covered 14,000 nautical miles, and called at 26 harbors. It returned to Gdynia from its last voyage – to Karlskrona in Sweden – on 20 August 1939.



- *Zawisza Czarny's* Captain. Known for his modesty, Zaruski did not like that the crew called him General instead of Captain.
- 📄 National Digital Archives



- ⬆ Captain Zaruski at *Zawisza Czarny's* helm.
- 📄 dpublic domain

- ⬅ General Zaruski addressing course participants from *Zawisza Czarny's* gangplank. Sailing port in Gdynia (nowadays named after Mariusz Zaruski), late 1930s.
- 📄 Polish Scouting and Guiding Association

- ➔ *Zawisza Czarny* in full sail during its voyage to Gotland (1937). The Polish scouts' flagship was one of the largest vessels of that type in the world.
- 📄 National Digital Archives



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***I sailed, I got wet and cold on yacht docks  
not to make sportsmen out of you [...],  
but so that you, as Poles, get to know the  
sea, become attached to it and come  
to regard it as your own priceless value  
without which there's no life in today's  
Poland.***

↑ M. Zaruski, *Wśród wichrów i fal*  
(Warsaw, 1935).

📷 public domain



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1939

# “Enemy of the People”



On the day of the outbreak of World War II Zaruski applied for assignment, but his advanced age prevented him from joining the defense of Poland. After the end of the 1939 defensive war he was hiding in Soviet-occupied Lviv. Despite scouts' help, the NKVD traced him probably as early in December 1939. In the spring of 1940 he was transported to the prison in Cherson, where he died on 8 April 1941.



↑ Zaruski had been sentenced in a show trial to five years in a Soviet labor camp in Krasnoyarsk Krai as a "socially dangerous element". He died before serving his time. Zaruski's mugshot taken by the NKVD.

📄 public domain

← General Zaruski's symbolic grave at the former prison in Kherson. The first scout and sailor of the Republic of Poland died at the age of 74 due to hunger and bloody dysentery.

📄 Polish Consulate General in Odessa



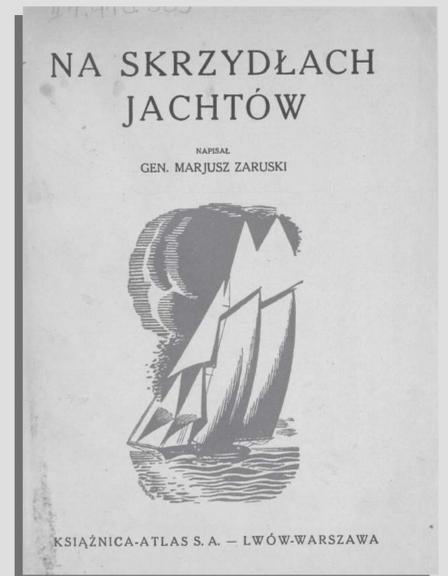
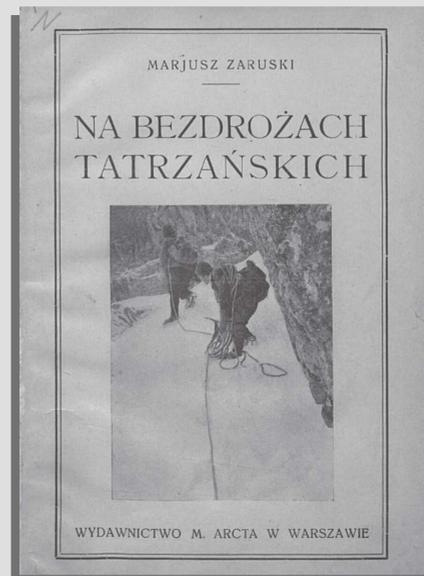
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# Non omnis moriar...

A traveler, poet, drawer, and painter. A journalist, pedagogue, and scout. A rescuer and pioneer of double-diamond skiing. A widely respected man of many passions and talents, Zaruski introduced into the Polish boating enthusiasts' dictionary terms such as *bukszpryt*, *fokmaszt*, *rumpel*, and *topenanta* (bowsprit, foremast, tiller, and topping lift in Polish respectively). The General's rich literary output includes about a dozen volumes of memoirs about his mountain

→ One of Zaruski's most popular books are two collections of short stories: *Na bezdrożach tatrzańskich* [astray in the Tatras] (1923) and *Na skrzydłach jachtów* [on yachts' wings] (1935).

📖 National Library



The yacht named after General Zaruski, commissioned in 1938 from a Swedish shipyard, has served sailing enthusiasts ever since. In the photograph the vessel during an old timer rally in Gdańsk (2019).

📖 Krzysztof Dębski



↑ The General's symbolic tombstone, unveiled in 1971 on the Old Cemetery in Zakopane. An urn with dirt from Kherson was laid on the cemetery on 11 November 1997.

📖 Bartosz Januszewski

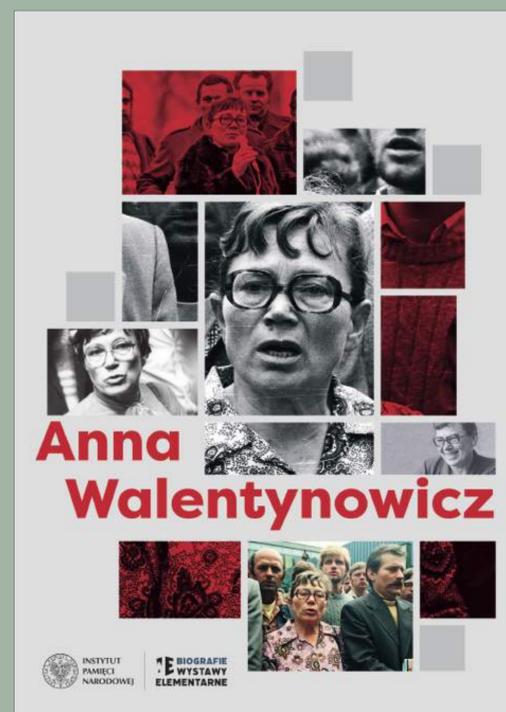
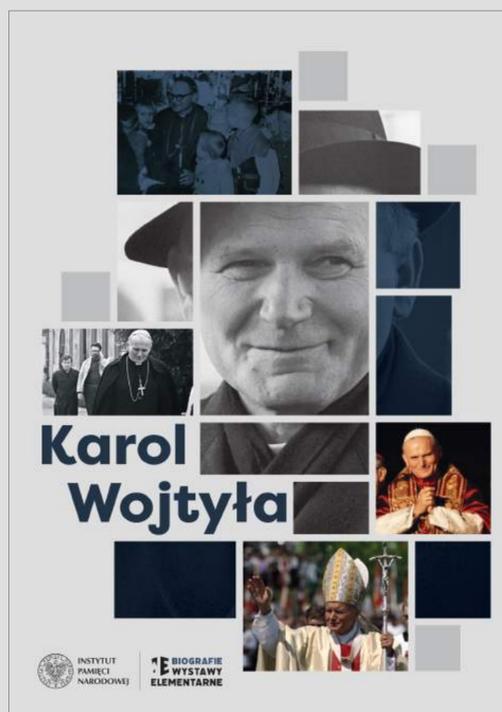
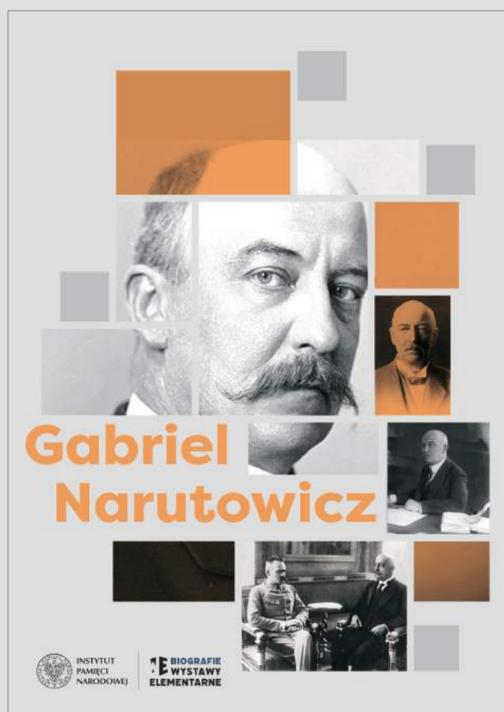
← On the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the General's birthday the Polish Sailing Union announced the year 2017 the Year of Mariusz Zaruski, while the Polish Post printed a stamp depicting *Zawisza Czarny's* Captain.

📖 Bartosz Januszewski

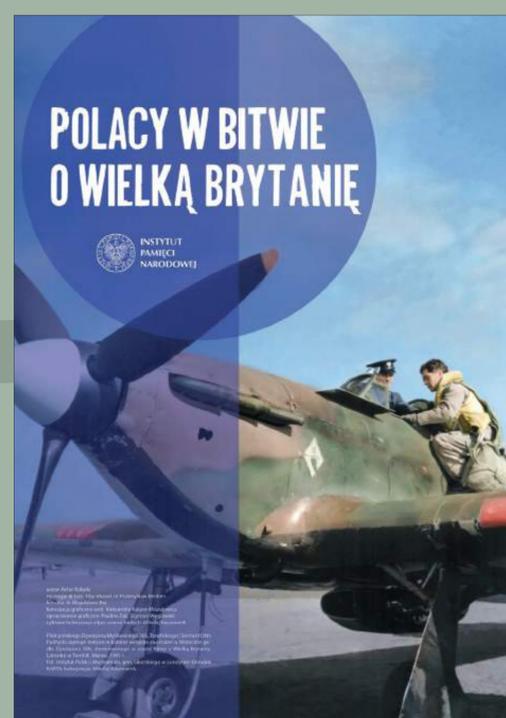


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Review: dr Marcin Kłodziński

Proofreading: Anna Świtalska-Jopek

Translation into English: Anna Brzostowska

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Typesetting: Piotr Wiejak

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