

The Poznań June 1956 — an English-language excerpt

On 28 June 1956, a strike that began at dawn in the H. Cegielski metal works (then named the Joseph Stalin Works, ZISPO) grew into a citywide protest of roughly 100,000 people. The demonstration, initially about raised work quotas and falling real wages, turned political as crowds marched on the centre, the city prison on Młyńska Street, and the provincial security office (WUBP) on Kochanowskiego Street.

After the first shots — fired around 10:40 — the authorities committed the army. Two armoured and two infantry divisions, totalling nearly 10,000 soldiers and some 360 tanks, were directed against the crowds under General Stanisław Popławski, a deputy minister of defence. Investigations later established 58 fatalities (other counts give 57) and about 650 wounded; roughly 250 people were arrested. The youngest widely remembered victim, Romek Strzałkowski, was thirteen.

The trials held in the autumn of 1956 collapsed amid the political “thaw” of October. The Poznań June is now read as the first mass workers’ revolt in the Soviet bloc that year, a precursor to the Hungarian uprising.

Workshop note: compare this with `opracowanie-pl-fragment.md` (use-case #5) and try a consistent PL EN translation of the casualty figures (use-case #3). Mind the 57-vs-58 discrepancy.