

Home Guard, Poland

(*Gwardia Ludowa*, also known as *Armia Ludowa*, meaning People's Army), a Polish underground Partisan organization active in the *Generalgouvernement* and areas of Poland annexed to the Reich. It was created in January 1942 by the Polish Workers' Party (*Polska Partia Robotnicza*, PPR).

In the spring of 1942 the PPR established the first Home Guard partisan units. They were run by a supreme command, and divided into many districts and regions. By late 1943 the guard had approximately 15,000--20,000 members and had carried out about 1,700 military actions.

In January 1944 a new Communist organization, the Polish National Council, ordered the Home Guard to change its name to the People's Army (*Armia Ludowa*). It kept the same structure as before. By summer 1944 the army had about 34,000 members, and throughout 1944 had carried out more than 1,500 military actions against the Germans.

Several Jewish partisan units, among them the unit of Yehiel Grynspan, originally having worked alone, joined the People's Army. The army also provided some weapons for the fighters in the Warsaw ghetto, and tried to help them during the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

In July 1944 the People's Army merged with the newly formed Polish army, which fought alongside the Soviet army until the end of the war.