

All Polish collector coins feature:

- face value
- image of the Eagle established as the state emblem of the Republic of Poland
- inscription: Rzeczpospolita Polska
- year of issue



Issuing collector items is an occasion to commemorate important historic figures and anniversaries, as well as to develop the interest of the public in Polish culture, science and tradition.

Information on the issue schedule can be found at the nbp.pl/monety website.

Should you have any questions, please contact our consultants at the following phone number: +48 22 185 17 05.

Collector coins issued by NBP are sold at NBP regional branches and in the NBP online shop.

On 24 August 2023, Narodowy Bank Polski will be putting into circulation a silver coin with a face value of 10 złoty which, along with a coin issued by the National Bank of Ukraine with a face value of 10 hryvnia, will form a set “Friendship and Brotherhood Are the Greatest Wealth”.

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Narodowy Bank Polski

We protect the value of Polish money



NARODOWY
BANK POLSKI

The Polish Thermopylae

The Warsaw Thermopylae



Collector coins

The Polish Thermopylae – The Warsaw Thermopylae

On 17 August 2023, Narodowy Bank Polski is putting into circulation a silver coin of the series “The Polish Thermopylae” – “The Warsaw Thermopylae”, with a face value of 20 złoty.

In the wake of defeat in the battle of the Bzura River in mid-September 1939, bloodied units of the “Poznań” and the “Pomorze” Armies under the command of Major General Tadeusz Kutrzeba were retreating towards Warsaw through the Kampinos Forest and along the Zakroczym road. At the same time, the Germans were trying to close the encirclement of the Polish capital. The 1st Battalion of the 30th Infantry Regiment of Kaniów Riflemen commanded by Major Bronisław Czesław Kamiński was deployed to the outskirts of Warsaw to cover the retreat of the Polish troops. On 20 September 1939 at dawn, the battalion took control of the wooded hills west of the Młociny village buildings and held that position, fighting the enemy and enduring artillery shelling.

Before sunrise the next day, the Kaniów Riflemen moved to the neighbouring settlement called Placówka. Having encountered no enemy there, they started preparations for defence. Two companies of the 1st Battalion manned the western and southern limits of the village while the third one, serving as a reserve, was stationed in the centre. Major Kamiński established his command post in the villa owned by Jan Gessner, a pharmacist from Warsaw, and observed the movements of the Germans in the surrounding area. After 9:00 a.m., while the Polish troops were still building their defence positions, they suddenly found themselves under a heavy artillery barrage. Terrified villagers took shelter in their basements. Units of the 24th Wehrmacht Infantry Division, supported by armoured vehicles, were advancing against the Polish position from the direction of Wólka Węglowa and Radiowo. The Germans stormed into Placówka. A fierce close quarters battle commenced in the burning streets, where the soldiers sometimes fought with bayonets and camp shovels. Major Kamiński fell while he was leading the reserve company in a counterattack. Several other officers were killed as well: Captain Tadeusz Rudowski, First Lieutenant Karol Lange and Second Lieutenants Waclaw Tejchfeld and



Stefan Bradmiller. After nearly two hours of deadly struggle, the decimated Kaniów Riflemen were forced to retreat from Placówka.

The heroic defence of the outposts in Młociny and Placówka went down in history as the Warsaw Thermopylae. The 1st Battalion of the 30th Infantry Regiment of Kaniów Riflemen sustained huge losses: about 500 killed and 250 wounded. By taking the brunt of the all-out attack by an overwhelming enemy force, Major Kamiński's troops obeyed the order they had been given – they effectively covered the Polish units moving from the area of the Kampinos Forest to Warsaw.

On 23 September 1939, German soldiers committed a war crime against the civil population of Placówka. They executed several men, including sculptor Józef Below.

Face value: 20 zł

Metal: Ag 925/1000

Finish: proof

Diameter: 38.61 mm

Weight: 28.28 g

Edge (side): plain

Mintage: up to 10,000 pcs



Designer of the obverse: Urszula Walerzak

Designer of the reverse: Kajetan Karkuciński

Issuer: NBP

The coins, commissioned by NBP, were struck by Mennica Polska SA

Major Kamiński was laid to rest in the Powązki Military Cemetery and his subordinates in the Wawrzyszew Cemetery. The defenders of Placówka are commemorated by a monument erected in front of the Warsaw Steel Works in September 1979.

The reverse features the image of Major Bronisław Czesław Kamiński and the Badge of the 30th Infantry Regiment of Kaniów Riflemen.

The obverse of all the coins from the “Polish Thermopylae” series features Athena, the Greek goddess of just war and wisdom.

Mateusz Napieralski