

COLONEL WŁODZIMIERZ KRZYŻANOWSKI



As Portrayed by Rom Muszynski



Krzyzanowski was born in Roznow on July 8, 1824, in what was known as Russian Poland. His father was a landowner and a veteran of the Napoleonic Wars. Krzyzanowski's father and both uncles had fought for Polish independence under Napoleon's banners, and his brother fought in the November 1830 uprising. Krzyzanowski was a first cousin to Frederic Chopin, whose mother's brother was Włodzimierz Krzyzanowski's father.

Krzyzanowski took part in the 1848 uprising against Prussia and fled Poland to avoid arrest. He went to Hamburg, Germany, and from there sailed to New York Harbor. Krzyzanowski worked as a civil engineer and surveyor in Virginia and was instrumental in pushing America's railroads west.

When President Lincoln issued a proclamation calling for volunteers, Krzyzanowski organized one of the first companies of militia in Washington, D.C. He attempted to expand recruitment to form a Polish Legion for service in the Union Army; but only managed to recruit enough troops for four companies. In the fall of 1861, the War Department combined his original four companies with six others from New York State, and Krzyzanowski soon became the colonel of the 58th New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment, often referred to as the Polish Legion.

Krzyzanowski participated in the battles of Cross Keys in the Shenandoah Valley, and Second Bull Run, Chancellorsville, where his brigade and the corps they were part of were routed by a Confederate flank attack, and Gettysburg in the Eastern Theater. At Gettysburg on July 1, 1863, his men were pushed



back through the town as the Union XI Corps retreated. However, Krzyzanowski led a counterattack on July 2nd on Cemetery Hill that helped stabilize the faltering Union line. Later in the year, the XI Corps was sent to the Western Theater to help relieve the Confederate siege of Chattanooga. Krzyzanowski played a role in the Battle of Wauhatchie and he was present at the Battle of Missionary Ridge.

When the XI Corps was dissolved, much of it being added to XX Corps, Krzyzanowski was assigned to command at Bridgeport, Alabama, to guard the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, and later to Stevenson, Alabama, both commands within the Department of the Cumberland. He also commanded the 3rd Brigade of the Defenses of the Nashville & Chattanooga Railroad.

Krzyzanowski was twice passed over for promotion because no one in the Senate could pronounce his name. However, President Lincoln promoted him to brevet brigadier general on March 2, 1865.

After the war, Krzyzanowski was given governing duties in Alabama. He later served as the appointed governor of several Southern states. He served in the Treasury Department and later in the customs service in Panama and New York. Krzyzanowski died in New York City in 1887. On October 13, 1937, the 50th anniversary of his death, his remains were transferred with military honors to Arlington National Cemetery. President Franklin D. Roosevelt broadcasted his tribute to the nation via radio.



Colonel Włodzimierz Krzyzanowski is portrayed by Rom Muszynski.