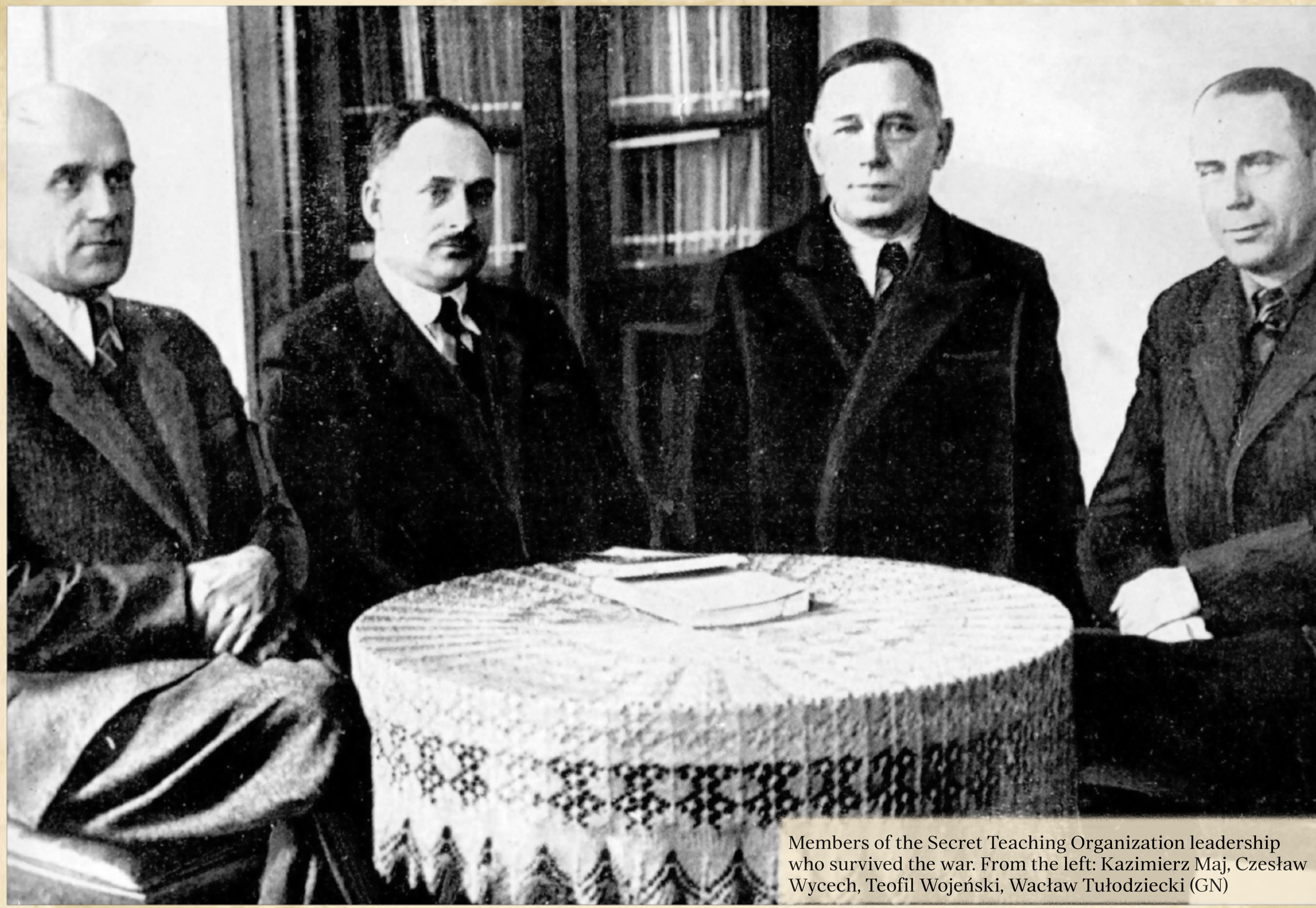


Establishment of the Secret Teaching Organization



Members of the Secret Teaching Organization leadership who survived the war. From the left: Kazimierz Maj, Czesław Wycech, Teofil Wojeński, Wacław Tułodziecki (GN)



Władysław Dobrowolski, president of the Pomeranian District of the TON (Krystyna Ciachanowska, Konrad Ciechanowski, *Tajna działalność kulturalno-oświatowa na Pomorzu 1939-1945*, Gdańsk 1975, p. 42)

As a response to the actions of the occupier, the Secret Teaching Organization (TON) – a clandestine organization of the Polish Teachers' Union – was founded in Warsaw on 26 October 1939 by Zygmunt Nowicki, Kazimierz Maj, Wacław Tułodziecki, Teofil Wojeński, and Czesław Wycech. The latter became head of the Department of Education and Culture of the Government Delegation for Poland, formed in 1940, thus establishing a personal connection between the TON and the official structures of the Polish Underground State.

From the first days of the Nazi occupation, the TON organized clandestine teaching and support for teachers, hid wanted members of the intelligentsia, and aided those imprisoned in concentration camps and prisons. It built its structures in the General Government and exerted influence in the territories annexed to the Reich, cooperating with the Government Delegation for Poland, the Union of Armed Struggle, and later with the Home Army Headquarters.

TON management from the Łódź district – sitting third from the left is Czesław Wycech, fourth – Zygmunt Nowicki, standing first from the right – Stanisław Świątliczko (public domain)

