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Chairman: Dr Marek Stella-Sawicki MBE KM



Widcombe Lodge
2 Brentham Way
London W5 1BJ
United Kingdom

Phone: 0208-997-4848 / 07899-874-444
Email: admin@polishheritagesociety.co.uk
Web: www.PolishHeritageSociety.co.uk

Polish Heritage Society (UK)

Newsletter 2

Autumn 2016



The International Cicho Ciemni (Silent and Unseen) June 2016 Conference

The Polish Heritage Society UK was asked by The Embassy of The Republic of Poland to organize a major conference for the Cicho Ciemni – The Silent and Unseen, for over 140 guests from the UK, Europe and USA, including military officers from these countries.

Speakers included: - Dr Andrzej Suchcitz from The Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum, Dr Paul Latawski from Sandhurst Military Academy, Dr Jeffrey Bines, Col. Michael Russell. Dr Bogdan Rowinski came from Warsaw, and was introduced by Mrs Kris Havard.

A film directed by Marek Widarski was shown with interviews of Cicho Ciemni veterans. The Polish dialogue of the film had been translated into English and a voice-over by Col. Mike Russell was produced by PHS UK, especially for this conference.

There was a commemorative 32 page programme. A book entitled, 'How to be an Agent in Occupied Europe', Special Operations Executive (S.O.E.) Manual, was presented to the guests. The book was donated by Harper Collins Publishers in return for a PHS donation to Whizzkids – a charity for disabled children.

The conference which was oversubscribed concluded with a lively Q & A session.



HISTORIC GRAVES



General Marian Kukiel's Grave, Kensal Green Cemetery

Marian Włodzimierz Kukiel was a Polish Major General, historian, and political activist. He was one of the founders of Związek Walki Czynnej and a member of Związek Strzelecki. He fought with the Polish Legions in First World War. In 1939 he took part in the battle to defend the city of Lwów. He left Poland in 1939 and became Vice-Minister of War in The Polish Government in Exile in London. Later he became a General Officer commanding the First Polish Corps in Scotland. After the war, he was a Professor of the Polish University in Exile and a member of The Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum in London.

National Service of Remembrance at Cenotaph Whitehall



From left: Jan Jarzębowski, Henry Budzyński, Zbyszek Lis KM, Anita Meeson DM, Chris and Hanka Januszewski, Dr Marek Stella-Sawicki MBE KM, Eugeniusz Niedzielski - veteran of the 1st Polish Armoured Division of General Stanisław Maczek.



Joseph Conrad Society

The 5th Annual Award from PHS

THE POLISH
HERITAGE
SOCIETY

JOSEPH CONRAD
AWARD

renewed for a
further 5 years !

Joseph Conrad Award May 2016

The Polish Heritage Society UK proposed that the 2016 Joseph Conrad Award go to Dr Andrew Francis, who is seeking to translate a work of the late Dr Andrzej Braun of Gdańsk, from Polish into English. The project should have all the relevant permissions later this year or early next year. Once these are acquired The Polish Heritage Society intend to release the award.

Andrzej Braun was a poet, writer and reporter and an outstanding Polish author fascinated by the life and works of Joseph Conrad-Korzeniowski.

Braun was born on August 19th, 1923 in Łódź and died on November 9th, 2008 in Warsaw.

Among Andrzej Braun's merits was the fact he was one of the main initiators of interest in the life and works of Joseph Conrad in Poland. When the Conrad Section of the Society of Friends of the Polish Maritime Museum in Gdańsk was transformed into the Polish Conradian Club, in 1975, he was elected its chairman until 1995.

Braun also published articles there and worked on the bibliography of Polish Conradiana. His last official appearance was during the inauguration of the Joseph Conrad Year in February 2007 at the Royal Castle in Warsaw.



(photogravure by Alvin Langdon Coburn)

A plaque to Polish ENIGMA cryptographers and the officers and men of Polish Radio Intelligence Coy



Enigma and Polish Cryptographers Plaque in Felden, Boxmoor Hemel Hempstead 20th July 2016

Henryk Zygalski

From September 1932, Zygalski was a civilian cryptologist with the Polish General Staff's *Biuro Szyfrów* (Cipher Bureau) working with Marian Rejewski and Jerzy Różycki. Together they developed methods and equipment for breaking Enigma messages. In late 1938, in response to growing complexities in German encryption procedures, Zygalski designed the "perforated sheets," also known as "Zygalski sheets," a manual device for finding Enigma settings. was, from September 1932, a civilian cryptologist with the Polish General Staff's *Biuro Szyfrów* (Cipher Bureau) working with Marian Rejewski and Jerzy Różycki. Together they developed methods and equipment for breaking Enigma messages. After the war he remained in exile in the United Kingdom and worked, until his retirement, as a lecturer in mathematical statistics at the University of Surrey. During this period he was prevented by the Official Secrets Act from speaking of his achievements in cryptology. He died August 30, 1978, at Liss, was cremated and his ashes taken to London

Marian Rejewski

Marian Adam Rejewski, (16 August 1905 – 13 February 1980) was a Polish mathematician and cryptologist who reconstructed the Nazi German military Enigma cipher machine sight-unseen in 1932. The cryptologic achievements of Rejewski and colleagues Jerzy Różycki and Henryk Zygalski enabled the British to begin reading German Enigma-encrypted messages at the start of World War II, seven years after Rejewski's original reconstruction of the machine.

Photo courtesy Marek Ostas

The Polish Heritage Society UK erected a plaque to two Polish Enigma code breakers Marian Rejewski and Henryk Zygalski with the officers and men of the Polish Radio Intelligence Coy.

The location of the site where the cryptographers and code breakers worked was located through research undertaken by The Polish Underground 1939-45 Study Trust and The Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum. Thanks to the close co-operation between the three organisations, The Polish Heritage Society, The Polish Underground 1939-45 Study Trust and the owner of the house, Mr James Mills Webb, it was possible to erect a plaque at the site in Felden. PHS was able to ensure full historical accuracy for the plaque, by working closely with Dr A Suchcitz, Mrs E Maresch and Mr J. Mills Webb.

The event was attended by H.E. Ambassador, Mr Witold Sobkow, Lady Verulam, Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, The local Mayor, Mr Robert McClean, Sir John Dermot Turing, a Trustee of Bletchley Park and John Gallehawk, a researcher at Bletchley Park.

Mr J Mills Webb kindly offered a donation towards the event.

21 July 2000, Poland's President Aleksander Kwaśniewski posthumously awarded Poland's highest civilian decoration, the Grand Cross of the Order of *Polonia Restituta*, to Marian Rejewski and Henryk Zygalski. Rejewski's daughter, Janina Sylwestrzak, also received the War Medal 1939–1945 on his behalf, from the British Chief of the Defence Staff in July 2005. On 1 August 2012, Marian Rejewski posthumously received the Knowlton Award of the U.S. Military Intelligence Corps Association.

News from the Polish Heritage Society's web page

www.polishheritage.co.uk

The Queens 215 Civil Honors received by 209 Polish Recipients since 1946.

The Queens 83 Military Honors received by 68 Polish Recipients since 1946.

The 77 Polish Names in Debrett's List include 19 University Professors, 14 Lawyers, 15 Artists, 9 Medical Doctors

82 Polish Candidates:

14 MPs winning in UK Elections since 1970 (1 MP x 5 times; 2 MPs x 3 times; 1 MP x twice; and 1 MP x once).

Of the 5 elected Polish MPs, 3 were Labour MPs and 2 were Conservative MPs.

74% of Polish Candidature by top 5 parties were:

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Labour | 17 |
| Liberal Democrats | 15 |
| Conservative | 12 |
| UKIP | 9 |
| Liberal | 8 |

Currently, there are 2 MPs (1 Labour and 1 Conservative)

Edited by T. Stella-Sawicka

Last Chance to Register

polishheritagesocietyuk@gmail.com

The 2nd Polish Heritage Society UK, International Military Conference 8th October 2016

General Maczek and the Falaise Gap

A Farewell Presentation

A farewell meeting was arranged for The Ambassador to the Court of St James, H.E. Witold Sobkow, and for Minister Counsellor, Mr Dariusz Laska, to thank them for their support in the various projects that Polish Heritage Society UK has completed over the past years, including conferences, Heritage plaques, concerts, and grave restorations .

The 2016 PHS 2nd Military History Conference



General Maczek and the Falaise Gap

The Conference will take place in The Embassy of the Republic of Poland in London on 8th October 2016

Register your interest at

polishheritagesocietyuk@gmail.com