



POLISH MILITARY LEADERSHIP IN WWII CONFERENCE

This conference has been organised in partnership with the British Commission for Military History and the Polish Heritage Society UK, supported by the Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum and the Embassy of the Republic of Poland. It is being held at the Royal College of Defence Studies, London on 20th and 21st June 2014.

It includes a full assessment of 3 Polish Battlefield Generals (1939-1945), and The Battle of Britain, Polish Air Force 303 Fighter Squadron.



General Anders was the commander of the 2nd Polish Corps in Italy 1943–1946, capturing Monte Cassino in the Battle of Monte Cassino, **General Maczek**, was a Polish tank commander of World War II, whose division was instrumental in the Allied liberation of France by closing the Falaise Gap, resulting in the destruction of 14 German Wehrmacht and SS divisions, **General Sosabowski** fought in the Battle of Arnhem in 1944 as commander of the Polish 1st Independent Parachute Brigade. **The Polish Air Force 303 Fighter Squadron** was one of 16 Polish Squadrons in the Royal Air Force (RAF) during the Second World War.



POLISH MILITARY LEADERSHIP IN THE WWII CONFERENCE

General Anders was the commander of the 2nd Polish Corps in Italy 1943–1946, capturing Monte Cassino in the Battle of Monte Cassino. Shortly after the attack on the Soviet Union by Germany on 22 June 1941, Anders who had been imprisoned in Moscow was released by the Soviets with the aim of forming a Polish Army. Following the Mayski-Sikorski agreement signed in London on 30th July, 1941, Stalin agreed to the exodus from the Soviet Union of Anders' men – known as the Anders Army, together with a sizeable contingent of Polish civilians via the Persian Corridor into Iran, Iraq and Palestine. Here, Anders formed and led the 2nd Polish Corps, fighting alongside the Western Allies, while agitating for the release of Polish nationals still in the Soviet Union. After the war he remained in exile in London. He was prominent in the Polish Government in Exile in London and an Inspector-General of the Polish Forces-in-exile.

General Maczek, was a Polish tank commander of World War II, whose division was instrumental in the Allied liberation of France by closing the Falaise Gap, resulting in the destruction of 14 German Wehrmacht and SS divisions. A veteran of World War I, the Polish-Soviet 1921 war, Maczek was the commander of Poland's only major armoured formation during the September 1939 campaign, and later commanded a Polish armoured formation in France in 1940. He was the commander of the famous First Polish Armoured Division, and later of the First Polish Army Corps under Allied Command in 1942-45, whose tank division was instrumental in the Allied liberation of Western Europe and closing the Falaise Gap. Later on, he managed to free Breda in the Netherlands without damaging the city and avoided casualties amongst the population of the city. Following a petition of 40,000 Breda inhabitants, he became a Honorary Dutch Citizen after the war. The Division's finest hour came when its forces captured the German port of Wilhelmshaven and accepted the surrender of the entire German garrison, including some 200 vessels of Hitler's Kriegsmarine.

General Sosabowski fought in the Battle of Arnhem (Netherlands) in 1944 as commander of the Polish 1st Independent Parachute Brigade. Sosabowski was a highly experienced soldier, who fought the Russians during the First World War. When Germany invaded Poland in 1939, he was in command of an infantry brigade that played a central role in the defence of Warsaw. When the city fell, Sosabowski was taken prisoner, though he quickly escaped and made his way to France while it was still defended by British and French troops. He was appointed Deputy Commander of the 1st Infantry Division, and later the 4th Rifle Division. After Dunkirk, he was evacuated to Britain and in September 1941, at his own request, was allocated the task of raising the 1st Polish Independent Parachute Brigade in Scotland. Sosabowski was promoted to Major-General in June 1944. He fought in the Battle of Arnhem in 1944 as commander of the Polish 1st Independent Parachute Brigade.

Polish Air Force No. 303 Fighter Squadron ("Kościuszko") was one of 16 Polish squadrons in the Royal Air Force (RAF) during the Second World War. It was the highest scoring RAF squadron of the Battle of Britain. The Squadron was named after the Polish and US hero, General Tadeusz Kościuszko, and the eponymous Polish 7th Air Escadrille founded by Merian C. Cooper, that served in Poland in the 1919–1921 Polish-Soviet War. No. 303 Squadron was formed in July 1940 in Blackpool, before deployment to RAF Northolt on the 2nd of August as part of an agreement between the Polish Government in Exile and the United Kingdom. Its success in combat can be mainly attributed to the years of extensive and rigorous pre-war training that many of the long-serving Polish pilots had received in their homeland. Far more than many of their younger and inexperienced RAF comrades. The Squadron had a distinguished combat record. It was disbanded in December 1946.

	<p>POLISH MILITARY LEADERSHIP IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR</p> <p>A Conference organised by the British Commission for Military History and the Polish Heritage Society (UK) At the Royal College of Defence Studies, London 20 - 21 June 2014</p>	
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Conference Theme

The Theme of the Conference is Polish Military Leadership in the West in the Second World War. The unique aspect of this is that the Polish Forces that began the War were very numerous but the forces that eventually formed up to fight in the West were much smaller. The key leaders had extensive prewar experience and generally remained at or very close to the level that they started the war at, unlike almost all the other Allies whose leaders were accelerated up through the ranks to command greatly expanded forces. The main conference sessions last about 75 minutes in order to allow the subjects to be explored in some depth. Each session will consist of a main speaker, a supporting speaker and a discussion period moderated by a BCMH member.

Conference Programme

Friday 20th June 2014

10.30: Pre-Conference Visit to the Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum at 20 Prince's Gate, London SW7 1PT including sandwich lunch. See <http://www.pism.co.uk/> for details of the role of the Institute and Museum.

14.00: **Main Conference assembles at the Royal College of Defence Studies (RCDS)** in Belgrave Square <http://www.da.mod.uk/colleges/rcds/contact-rcds>

14.15: **Opening Session.** An address from the Keynote speaker, **Professor Norman Davies**, UNESCO professor of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland.

14.45: **Lieut. Gen. Wladyslaw Anders** who commanded the 2nd Polish Corps in the battle for Monte Cassino during the Italian Campaign. The discussion will be led by **Dr. Andrzej Suchcitz** (Keeper of Archives, Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum). The supporting speaker will be **Dr. Halik Kochanski**.

17.00: Session closes to allow time to prepare for the evening event.

Friday Evening

19.00: **Reception at the Polish Embassy in Portland Place including buffet supper and drinks.** We will be welcomed by the Polish Ambassador.

Saturday 21st June 2014

The Saturday event will be held entirely at RCDS and will continue the focus on Polish leadership in the west.

Session 1: The 303 Polish Fighter Squadron: which became the most successful Allied squadron at shooting down enemy aircraft during the Battle of Britain. The session will be led by **Peter Devitt**, Assistant Curator at the RAF Museum Hendon.

Session 2: Lieut. Gen. Stanislaw Maczek who commanded the Polish 1st Armoured Division in Northwest Europe. This session will be led by **Dr. Paul Latawski** (Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, BCMH) whom many of you will know for his earlier presentations on the Division. He will be supported by **Dr. Andrzej Maczek**, the General's son.

Lunch: At RCDS

Session 3: Maj. Gen. Stanislaw Sosabowski who commanded the Polish Parachute Brigade during the Market Garden operation in the attempt to achieve the crossing of the river Rhine at Arnhem. This session will be led by **George Cholewczynski**, from the USA and the biographer of General Sosabowski. The supporting speaker will be **Dr Marek Stella-Sawicki MBE**, Chairman of the Polish Heritage Society (UK).

Session 4: Open Forum chaired by **Maj. Gen. Mungo Melvin**.

THE BRITISH COMMISSION FOR MILITARY HISTORY (BCMh)

The objects of the British Commission for Military History (BCMh) are to promote through research, publication and discussion the understanding of military history in the broadest sense, on land, sea and air and without restrictions as to historical period.

The Commission was founded in 1968 and is affiliated to the International Commission for Military History which is itself an Affiliated International Organization to UNESCO, within the International Committee of Historical Sciences. There are nearly 40 National Commissions within the ICMH.

In structure the BCMh is a members' club and membership is by invitation of the General Committee on the basis of nomination by commission members. The current membership is nearly 200 and rising. The members include those who work professionally in the field of military history, for example as university teachers or museum staff, and others who contribute actively to the development of military history in the UK, by writing and publishing or by playing a role in the organization of relevant societies.

The Commission's main activity is the organization of a number of conferences each year (usually 1 weekend and 2 one-day conferences). Conference themes sometimes relate to particular campaigns or military historical anniversaries but generally pursue a topic across several periods and types of warfare, encouraging the interchange of ideas between specialists. In addition the Commission organizes an annual battlefield tour. All these activities are open to members and guests. A newsletter (Mars & Clio) is sent to members 3 times a year in which conference papers are published, together with book reviews, conference announcements, short articles and commission news. The Commission has been responsible for three commercial publications in the last decade, collections of essays dealing with the First and Second World Wars. In May 2008 a BCMh website was launched, primarily for communication among the membership but also offering a selection of BCMh conference papers, news of conferences, courses, publications &c to the general public. It is the Commission's intention to develop this public face as a service to the large section of the British public who have an interest in military history without pursuing it at the professional or semi-professional level expected of Commission members.

The day-to-day management of the Commission is vested in the President and General Committee who are elected by the membership. The Presidents of the BCMh have been Dr. David Chandler, Professor Brian Bond, Professor Richard Holmes, and currently Maj Gen Mungo Melvin. The BCMh website can be found at www.bcmh.org.uk/ The Annual Subscription is £20, payable by Standing Order in January each year.

Professor William Philpott, Professor of the History of Warfare, Kings College

THE POLISH HERITAGE SOCIETY (UK)

The Polish Heritage Society was set up to help protect the heritage of the Polish Diaspora in this country. Polish immigration to the UK goes back as far as the 1831, although most of us will be more familiar with the Polish exiles of WWII. This Polish Diaspora in the UK was made up of writers, poets, the military, politicians, presidents, artists, professionals from all walks of life, who played an important role in the creation of a large and vibrant Polish community in the UK. The Polish Heritage Society was created after the WWII Polish Allied Forces Memorial unveiling at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire in 2009.

Some members of the Polish Allied Forces Memorial Committee, a Polish Committee that won The Dziennik Polski's "Organisation of the Year Award" in 2010, decided that the synergy created for the Memorial project should be harnessed and used to the benefit of the Polish Community in the United Kingdom. The Polish Heritage Society was subsequently created in 2010 and was officially established in 2011 as a Charity limited by guarantee.

Since our formation as a British charity, we have worked on projects ranging from a major Chopin statue in the centre of Manchester, the refurbishment of a Chopin statue at Southbank, Royal Festival Hall, which had been missing for 40 years, busts of Chopin for Trinity College of Music in Greenwich, and the London Borough of Ealing. To celebrate the centenary of Marie Skłodowska-Curie, the only woman to win two Nobel prizes, PHS donated two bronze busts, one to a Hospice in Hampstead (in the name of our dear friend and colleague, Dr Andrew Meeson-Kielanowski) and the other to an Oncology Hospital in Wimbledon.

Last year we produced a documentary film on General Sosabowski and the Polish Airborne Brigade in Arnhem in 1944, supported by The Embassy of the Republic of Poland and closer to home, we positioned a plaque to General Sosabowski in the place where he last lived.



Our largest donation to date went to Ognisko Polskie (The Polish Hearth Club) when The Polish Heritage Society refurbished the front façade of this iconic Grade II building in Exhibition Road, London.

In May, 2013, in partnership with The Embassy of the Republic of Poland, we completed a renovation of the grave in Kensal Green cemetery of Krystyna Skarbek-Granville. She was an SOE member during the WWII, and Churchill's favourite secret agent. This project attracted massive international media and TV coverage.

Amongst the Polish Heritage Society UK just completed projects is the renovation of the grave of Prince Poniatowski, a plaque for the Polish Navy at their former London Headquarters during WWII and some form of commemoration for shell-shocked Polish soldiers recovering at the Horton Hospitals in Surrey.

We are proud to say that a large number of successful projects have already been delivered by us to date, and one thing of which you can be certain is that we will continue our work in years to come. The trustees of the charity believe that the aim of the Polish Heritage Society is to continually ensure that Polish historical assets are remembered and, if required, protected. We are confident that we can continue to achieve our aims because some outstanding talent and experience in our organisation, combined with the terrific determination to deliver, whatever we undertake. Polish Heritage is an organisation that possesses a results oriented culture.

Finally I must thank our Board colleagues and everybody who helped us during this year, hoping for their continuous support in the future.

Dr Marek Stella-Sawicki MBE KM, Visiting Professor UCL, University of Buckingham (Military History), RUSI, Chairman, Polish Heritage Society (UK)

www.polishheritage.co.uk

BIOGRAPHIES OF CONFERENCE SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS



Professor Norman Davies, is an British historian of Welsh descent, known for his excellent publications on the history of Europe and the British Isles. He is the author of the prize-winning history of Poland, *God's Playground* (1981) and the Number 1 best-seller in Britain *Europe: A History* (OUP, 1996). Professor Davies has been awarded the Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George (CMG) for 'services to history' (2001). He is currently a Fellow of the British Academy and an Honorary Fellow of St. Antony's College, Oxford University. In the past, Norman Davies has been a visiting professor at Columbia, McGill, Hokkaido, Stanford, Harvard, Adelaide, and Australian National University. From 2000 - 2006 he was a Supernumerary Fellow at Wolfson College, Oxford and in 2006-2008 a Visiting Fellow at Clare Hall and Peterhouse, Cambridge. Publications in English: "*White Eagle, Red Star: the Polish-Soviet War, 1919-20*" (1972); "*God's Playground: a History of Poland*" (1981); "*Heart of Europe: the Past in Poland's Present*" (1984); "*Europe: a History*" (1996); "*The Isles: a History*" (1996); "*Microcosm: Portrait of a Central European City*", on Wroclaw/Breslau, with Roger Moorhouse (2000); "*Rising '44: the Battle for Warsaw*" (2003); "*Europe East and West*": Collected Essays (2006); "*Europe at War*", 1939-45: "*No Simple Victory*" (2006), published in the USA as "*No Simple Victory*" (2007); "*Vanished Kingdoms*" (2011).



Dr. Andrzej Suchcitz PhD., FRHist.S. Educated at Divine Mercy College Fawley Court, Forest Hill Comprehensive, he studied history at the University of London (School of Slavonic and East European Studies). Since 1983 Assistant Keeper and since 1989 Keeper of Archives of the Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum and the Polish Underground Movement (1939-1945) Study Trust. He has written extensively on Polish political and military history of the 20th century. Andrzej is the author, co-author, editor and co-editor of nearly 300 books and articles in Polish and English. He was a member of the Anglo-Polish Historical Committee concerning wartime co-operation between the two intelligence services. His English language publications include "*Poland's contribution to the Allied Victory in the Second world War*" (1995, 1996, 2011), co-editing and contributing chapters to: E.R.Sword, "*The Diaries and Despatches of a Military Attache in Warsaw 1939-1939*" (London 2001); "*General Wladyslaw Sikorski, Poland's wartime leader*" (London 2007); "*General Wladyslaw Anders. Soldier and Leader of the Free Poles in Exile*" (London- 2008).



Peter Devit is a Curator at the Royal Air Force Museum since 2001; and in that time he have made a study of ethnic diversity in Britain's flying services. In the course of his research, he have worked closely with the Polish, Czech, Sikh and Jewish communities, and the links forged with them have proved invaluable. Peter have published articles on the RAF's overseas personnel in newspapers and periodicals and in academic and professional journals. He have also had the opportunity to contribute to films and to television and radio programmes on the subject. The RAF Museum has mounted a number of exhibitions on diversity, such as *Brothers in Arms* (2011) about Polish and Czechoslovak airmen in the Battle of Britain. Most recently, they have collaborated with the Black Cultural Archives to create the highly successful exhibition '*Pilots of the Caribbean*', which tells the story of the RAF's African-Caribbean volunteers.



Dr. Paul Latawski is a Senior Lecturer in the Defence and International Affairs Department, Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. He is a Senior Associate in the Advanced Research and Assessment Group, Defence Academy of the United Kingdom and an Associate Fellow in the European Security Programme at the Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies (RUSI), London. He completed his Ph.D. at Indiana University USA. His principal research interests include security sector reform in post conflict peace building and state-building and the problems associated with both historical and contemporary coalition military operations. He has also written on NATO enlargement, Polish defence transformation, sub-regional co-operation, nationalism and Balkan conflict.



George F. Cholewczynski was born in 1951 to Polish parents in northern New Jersey. His father, a merchant sailor, was a crewman on the last ship to leave Poland in 1939. Cholewczynski's keen interest in the history of World War II was developed through the fact that his neighborhood had recently built housing for veterans. In addition, he was exposed to practically every stripe of the Polish wartime experience from the many emigres who had settled in the area. Cholewczynski was initially employed for over 20 years as a technical librarian, first at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he was responsible for the acquisition of governmental publications, and those originating in the Soviet Union. He later was head of acquisitions for the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Technical Information Service. The AIAA (brother organization of the Royal Aeronautical Society) collected and analyzed technical publications and produced NASA's technical database. His work on General Sosabowski and the 1st Independent Parachute Brigade was first published in the Netherlands as "*DE POLEN VAN DRIEL*", in 1989, and then as "*POLES APART: The Polish Airborne at the Battle of Arnhem*" in the US and Britain in 1993, and subsequently as "*ROZDARTY NARÓD*" in Poland in 2006. He has lectured at the Advanced Officer Course and the Infantry School, Fort Benning, and "*POLES APART*" has been on the reading list at the US Army Command and General Staff College. Resident in New Orleans since 1994, Mr. Cholewczynski is now a small-press publisher specializing in military history. He has published memoirs and unit histories for veterans' organizations and private parties. In addition, he is a regular contributor to the bi-monthly journal, "*AMERICA IN WWII*".



General Mungo Melvin was Educated at Daniel Stewart's College in Edinburgh, the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst, Downing College, Cambridge and the German Armed Forces Command and Staff College in Hamburg, Melvin was commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1975. He became Director, Land Warfare in June 2002, Director of Operational Capability at the Ministry of Defence in 2004 and General Officer Commanding United Kingdom Support Command (Germany) in 2006. He went on to be Chief Army Instructor at the Royal College of Defence Studies in 2009 before retiring in 2011. In 2009 he appeared as an expert witness at the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia. He is an associate senior fellow of the Royal United Services Institute.



Dr. Halik Kochanski is a British historian and writer. Kochanski was educated at Downside School and at Balliol College, Oxford, where she was awarded an M.A. in Modern History. She obtained her Ph.D from King's College, London. She has taught history at King's College London and University College, London. She has written a number of historical articles and two books: "*Sir Garnet Wolseley-Victorian Hero*" (1999) and "*The Eagle Unbowed-Poland and the Poles in the Second World War*" (2012). She is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, and a member of the Army Records Society, the Society for Army Historical Research, the British Commission for Military History and the Institute for Historical Research. As of 2012 she is a judge for the Templer Medal book prize.

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Dr. Andrzej Maczek MA DPhil CChem FRSC. Andrzej Maczek, son of Gen Stanislaw Maczek, was born in Czestochowa, Poland on 28 Feb 1937. In 1939 the family was living in Lwow, then a Polish city. At the outbreak of war together with his mother and elder sister they tried to get to safety near the Russian border but instead they eventually decided to join the Polish Armoured brigade as it withdrew to Hungary. From Hungary they found their way via Italy to France where the Polish Armed Forces were reforming. In 1940 a military driver drove the three of them to Spain, from where they took a tortuous and treacherous route via Casablanca and Lisbon, finally arriving at Bristol airport in Aug 1940. Andrzej Maczek studied at Ampleforth and Merton College Oxford where he gained a MA and DPhil in Chemistry. From 1968 until his retirement he lectured at Sheffield. He was one of the first Tutor Counsellors with the OU.



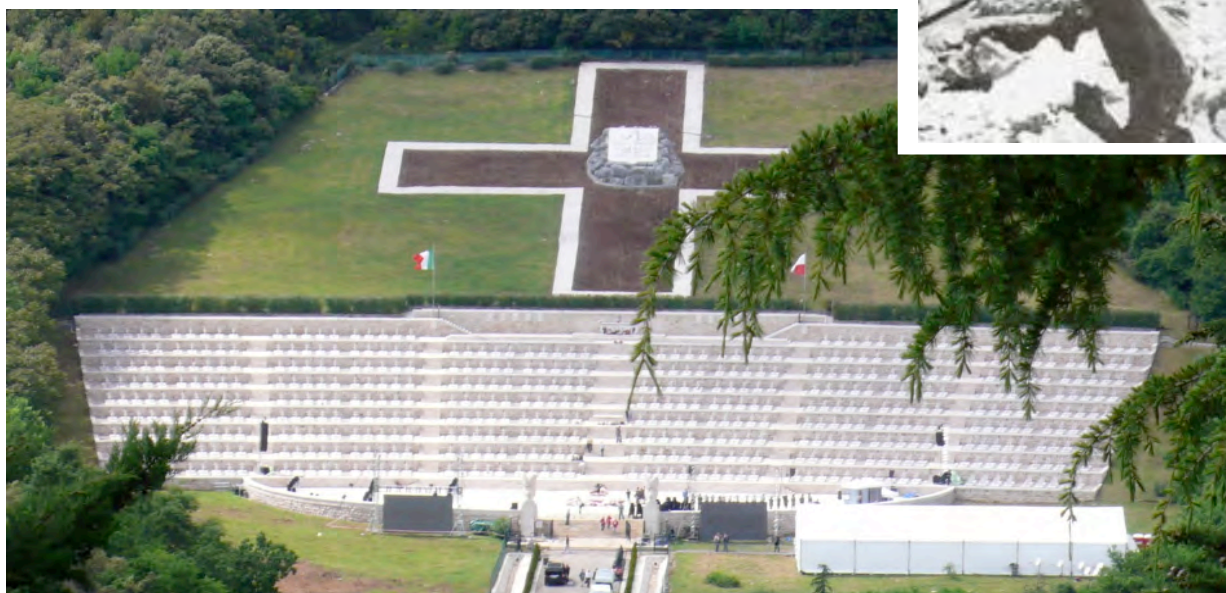
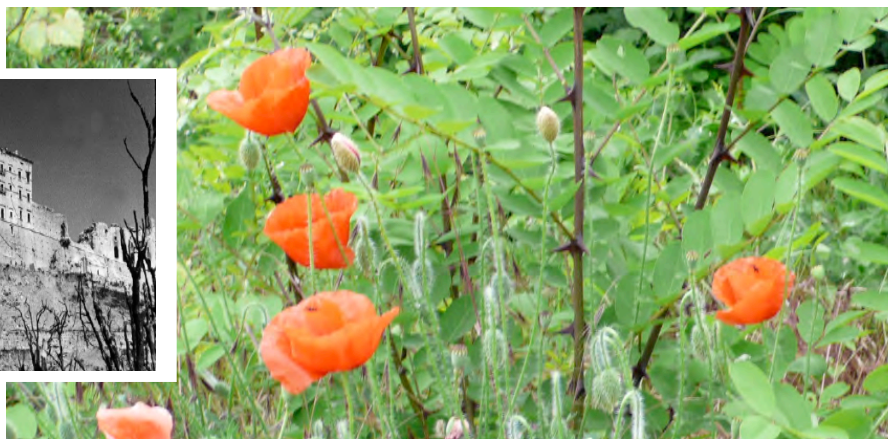
Dr. Marek Stella-Sawicki served as a Chairman of Polish Armed Forces War Memorial Project in National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire 2008-09, Chairman of Fryderyk Chopin Memorial Committee at Southbank Centre 2010-11, Chairman Polish Heritage Society UK 2010, Video Press Falklands Appeal in 1982. Association Polonaise des Chevaliers de Malte UK, Chairman 2012, Knight of Grace and Devotion SMOM 2008, Polish Army Gold Medal 2010, Officer's Cross Polonia Restituta 2010, Officer's Cross Pro Merito Melitensi 2011, UK Airborne Forces Association Medal Utrunque Paratus-Ad Unum Omnes 2013. He obtained his Ph.D from King's College, London 1974-1978. Awarded MBE on Her Majesty Birthday's Honours List 2012. Military History at University of Buckingham 2013. He is visiting Professor at UCL since 2007. In 2013 produced a documentary film on Polish story of the Battle of Arnhem, covering the fate of Major General Stanislaw Sosabowski CBE and the 1st Polish Independent Parachute Brigade at Arnhem and Driel, Sept. 1944, featuring interviews with Brigade Major Tony Hibbert MBE, MC and Sir Brian Urquhart KCMG, MBE - head of Intelligence at Arnhem.



General John Drewienkiewicz was commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1966 and was promoted to the rank of lieutenant in 1968, captain in 1972 major in 1978, lieutenant colonel in 1984 and colonel in 1988. Promotion to brigadier came on 31 December 1989, with seniority from 30 June 1989. Drewienkiewicz attained general officer rank with promotion to acting major general on 15 December 1994 and was appointed Engineer in Chief (Army). He was granted the substantive rank of major general on 25 April 1995 with seniority from 1 July 1994. He was appointed to the NATO role of Director of Support at Joint Force Command Brunssum on 28 July 1995 and to the honorary role of Colonel Commandant, Corps of Royal Engineers in 1997. In 1998 he served as military assistant to the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina and was appointed Companion of the Order of the Bath.



Monte Cassino, Italy, 18th May 2014 and General Wladyslaw Anders





Polish Airforce Fighting Squadron 303 in Battle of Britain



1st Polish Armoured Division and Commander General Stanisław Maczek



1st Polish Independent Parachute Brigade and Commander General Stanisław Sosabowski





Daquise Restaurant

Situated in the very heart of London's South Kensington, the legendary Daquise has been serving delicious, traditional Polish Cuisine for over sixty five years. Since 1947 we have welcomed many esteemed guests and played a small part in history of both London and Poland.

In the sixties, during the height of the Profumo affair, we played host to Christine Keeler and Yevgeni Ivanov, the naval attaché of the Soviet Embassy and KGB spy. Roman Polanski regularly stopped by for dumplings and goulash whilst filming *Repulsion*, as did Edward Raczynski, the President of Poland in exile, who appointed Daquise his unofficial headquarters and planned many campaigns to overthrow the Communist regime from our tables. There is nothing that would please us more than to welcome you to our restaurant and together uphold the legend of Daquise.

Daquise Restaurant,
20 Thurloe Street, London SW7 2LT,
Reservations 020 7589 6117

Polish Heritage Society (UK),
www.polishheritage.co.uk
**Polish Armed Forces Memorial at
the National Memorial Arboretum,**
www.polishforcesmemorial.com
Programme Concept Design
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