

The Polish Section of SOE

“Cichociemni” – The Airborne Soldiers of the Polish Home Army A.K. The Silent and Unseen, 1940-1945

International Military History Conference

Saturday 11th June 2016

The Embassy of the Republic of Poland in London





It is a great pleasure to yet again be working closely with The Polish Heritage Society UK in arranging this memorable Conference, especially as this year has been nominated the year of “Cichociemni”, “The Silent and Unseen”, by The Government of Poland.

We are lucky to have with us speakers and representatives from Poland and The EU and NATO countries, and would particularly warmly welcome our British specialist speakers who will give us an insight into this brave group of people, whose value to the Allies was undeniable. It has long been known that it was due to the critical intelligence supplied by the Polish Home Army, from these courageous people, that WWII concluded when it did.

I would also like to thank The Polish Heritage Society UK and all of the speakers for giving freely of their time, knowledge and skills.

I am delighted to host this conference “The Polish Section of SOE, “Cichociemni” The Airborne Soldiers of The Polish Home Army (AK)” 1940 – 1945 here in The Polish Embassy and I wish you all a most enjoyable, informative and successful event.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Witold Sobków".

Mr. Witold Sobków

The Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the Court of St James's in London



As President of the Polish Heritage Society UK, I am honoured to be able to support the first of the The Society's 2016 Military History Conferences.

The work of the Polish Heritage Society in increasing awareness of the input of the Polish Military during WWII through such conferences is invaluable, as it highlights the enormous contribution which generations of Poles have made to their adopted country.

Preserving and celebrating that heritage between Poland and the United Kingdom will only further strengthen the ties between the two countries. Allowing new generations to examine and explore these ties can only increase the understanding of their joint historical background.

I am delighted to support the The Airborne Soldiers of The Polish Home Army (AK), 'Cichociemni' The Silent and Unseen 1940-1946 Conference.

The 'Cichociemni' from the Polish Section of SOE played a serious role within The Polish Home Army and their role has often been sidelined by history, so it is encouraging to see the circumstances of their work highlighted and brought to the fore.

Charles Guthrie

Field Marshal The Lord Guthrie
of Craigiebank GCB LVO OBE
President of Polish Heritage Society (U.K.)



Dear Friends

In 2013, The Polish Heritage Society UK organised its first two day conference with The British Commission for Military History at The Royal College of Defence Studies in London. It was received with great acclaim. A number of those who attended suggested our involvement in further Military History Conferences, and indeed, I am happy to say there will be another Military History Conference later on this year.

In 2016, The Senate of the Republic of Poland announced this year will be the Year of the 'Cichociemni' – The Polish Section of SOE. In response to this, The Polish Heritage Society has worked to highlight the enormous contribution that members of 'Cichociemni' delivered in Poland under the Nazi oppression and also in their wider efforts within the Allied Forces in Europe during the WWII. After the formation of the Polish section of the SOE, Department VI of the Polish Government in Exile's Biuro of General Staff, it began discreetly recruiting volunteers to parachute into Poland for special duties. The object was to inject a number of specialists trained in areas such as staff work, covert operations, intelligence, document forging, demolitions, signals and general sabotage skills into the Polish underground military. Volunteers included 1 general officer, 112 staff officers, 894 junior officers, 592 NCOs, 771 privates, 15 women and 28 civilian political couriers. There is little doubt that during the 1940-45, the 'Cichociemni' or the Polish Home Army Parachutists influenced the underground fight and unrest in most of occupied Poland in its pre 1939 borders.

Their wartime spirit and sacrifice deserves to be remembered forever.

In May 1945, Winston Churchill requested a report summing up the achievements of the Polish Intelligence Service throughout the war years. It showed that between 3rd of September 1939 and 8th of May 1945, there were 45,770 reports generated by British Intelligence, of which 22,047 (48%) had come from Polish sources covering a wide range of enemy activities. This information only came into the public domain in 2005.

The Organizing Committee of this conference wish to thank the many individuals and organisations for their help, participation and support in organising this conference.

Dr Mark Stella-Sawicki MBE KM RUSI

Chairman, Polish Heritage Society (U.K.), Visiting Professor UCL



I am honoured to have the opportunity to attend this International History Conference today. This Conference represents an historical landmark to remember and acknowledge the acts of bravery of the Cichociemni, which was the inspiration that led to the formation of the Polish Special Missions Unit JW Grom 25 years ago. On behalf of each and every highly trained professional GROM soldier I am delighted to take part in today's event.

Colonel Piotr Gąstał


The Commander of the Special Missions Unit (CT) GROM

Biographical Note:

Colonel Piotr Gąstał, the Commander of the Special Missions Unit (CT) GROM. He began his military service in January 1989 and volunteered to Special Missions Unit (CT) GROM in 1991. The first assignment in SF was to the intelligence cell where he completed two tours as Intelligence Assistant Officer. In 1993 he was assigned to the Special Program Division to build and train the Special Boat Group in GROM. He spent most of his career serving in Combat Squadrons among others as Chief of Operations. In 2004 he was assigned to the Special Program Division to build a FAC/JTAC group in the unit. He graduated from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA earning his Master of Arts in National Security Studies - Combating Terrorism Policy and Strategy. He then completed the Defense Resources Management Course at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Defense Resources Management Institute. He completed Special Forces Officer Qualification Course at JFK Special Warfare Center and School, Fort Bragg, NC and participated in Advance Special Operations Combating Terrorism Course at Joint Special Operations University, Tampa, FL. Colonel Gąstał served in Haiti, Kosovo, Eastern Slavonia and Iraq. He's personal decorations received for his service, social work and international cooperation include the Polish Defense Meritorious Service, Cross of Merit for Bravery, Polish Order of Merit of the Police Forces, the Polish state decoration Pro Patria Medal, honorary Badge of Merit for Polish Culture and on request of the United States Congress – the US flag.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Start 9.45 for 10.00

A Word of Introduction from Colonel Piotr Gąstał, the Commanding Officer of JW GROM¹, Grupa Reagowania Operacyjno-Manewrowego (Operational Mobile Reaction Group) - one of the special forces units of the Polish Armed Forces

1. The Polish Section of SOE 1940-1945. Its organisation and role

Speaker: **Dr Andrzej Suchcitz FRHistS.**,
The Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum

2. The Polish Home Army: Aims, Structure and External Support

Speaker: **Dr Paul Latawski**,
Department of War Studies, Royal Military Academy
Sandhurst, Camberley

Coffee/Tea break

3. The British Perspective on the Polish Section of SOE 1940-1946

Speaker: **Dr. Jeffrey Bines**
Author of *“Operation Freston”* 1999. Doctorate in history, University of Stirling 2008: *“The Polish Country Section of the Special Operations Executive 1940-1945”*

4. A selection of profiles of the “Cichociemni” and Polish Section of SOE

Speaker 1: **Dr Bogdan Rowiński, introduced by Kris Havard**
Fundacja im. Cichociemnych Spadochroniarzy Armii
Krajowej, (Polish Home Army A.K. Airborne Soldiers
Foundation in Warsaw)

¹ Military Unit GROM is named in honour of the *“Cichociemni”*, the Silent Unseen of the Home Army and the Polish Section of the SOE. The JW GROM was originally modelled on NATO's most reputable special operations units such as the US Army's Delta Force, the US Navy's SEAL Team Six (DEVGRU) and the British Army's SAS. Over the past 20 years, GROM participated in numerous international missions, operations, and joint training exercises.

Speaker 2: **Col. Michael Russell MA MBA FCILT MCGI**

Trustee of the Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces Museum. Former Commander of Aldershot Garrison – ‘Home of the British Army’, former Commander of MOD’s Defence Logistic School.

Lunch Break

5. British Premiere of ‘Cichociemni’ film by TVP 1, (TVP - Polish Television)

Director: Marek Widarski

6. Operation Freston: UK and Poland

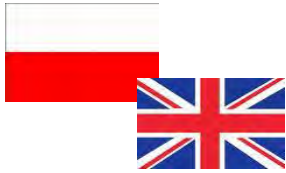
Speaker: **Dr. Jeffrey Bines**

Author of *“Operation Freston”* 1999. Doctorate in history, University of Stirling
2008: *“The Polish Country Section of the Special Operations Executive 1940-45”*

7. Q & A Panel, discussion with delegates

8. Concluding Summary

Post Conference Reception at the Polish Embassy



Dr. Andrzej Suchcitz PhD., FRHist.S., Educated at Divine Mercy College Fawley Court and Forest Hill Comprehensive, he studied history at the University of London (School of Slavonic and East European Studies). In 1983 he became Assistant Keeper and then in 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-editor and contributor to: E.R.Sword, *"The Diaries and Despatches of a Military Attache in Warsaw 1939-1939"* (London 2001).



Dr. Paul Latawski is a Senior Lecturer in the War Studies Department, Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. He completed his Ph.D. at Indiana University USA specialising in Central and Eastern Europe with particular emphasis on modern Poland.

His current research interests include: the Second World War with particular reference to the Normandy and Italian campaigns, the Polish Armed Forces in the West, Polish resistance to occupation 1939-45, urban operations, problems of coalition command, and the history of British Army doctrine. He has published extensively on these topics.

He is currently writing a history of 1st Polish Armoured Division operations in Normandy.



Dr. Jeffrey Bines is a retired airline pilot who became interested in the Polish section of SOE following his investigation into their activities at Audley End House, the section's wartime training station. He subsequently published an account of the British Military Mission to Poland in 1944 known as *"Operation Freston"*.

Whilst continuing his researches, he was invited to carry out post graduate studies by the Polish History Department of the University of Stirling where he was awarded a PhD, his thesis being the *"British Perspective of the Polish SOE's Country Section"*.

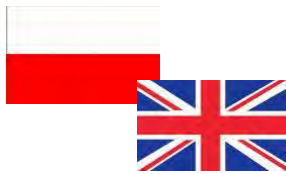
He is Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Gun Makers in the City of London. He was awarded by the Polish Government, the Gold Cross of Merit in 2001.



Dr. Bogdan Rowiński, A graduate of the University of Warsaw. Son of a soldier from General Anders Polish Second Corps, who was also a former Soviet prisoner from Workuta.

Dedicated to the commemoration and remembrance of the efforts of the Polish Forces during WWII. Founder and President of Foundation of Silent & Unseen Home Army Parachutists. Professional career at J. Walter Thompson, McCann-Erickson, General Motors and Ströer.

Recently, a Marketing Advisor to Vice Chancellor of the School of Economics in Warsaw. Dr Rowiński advice in all aspects of this important conference was invaluable.



Col. Michael Russell MA MBA FCILT MCGI. A Graduate of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in 1978. He spent the majority of his 35 year career serving with British Airborne Forces when at Regimental Duty. He served in Northern Ireland, Central Africa, Kosovo and Iraq. A Trustee of the Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces Museum with a keen interest in military history. He was Commander of Aldershot Garrison, traditionally known as the 'Home of the British Army'. A former Commander of MOD's Defence Logistic School. In 2013, Col Russell was invited to write a biography of Major General Stanisław Sosabowski - holder of the Knight's Cross of the Virtuti Militari, Commander of the Cross and Star of the Order of Polonia Restituta, Honorary Commander of the British Empire award, The Bronze Lion award bestowed by Dutch Royal Family.



Dr. Marek Stella-Sawicki MBE KM RUSI served as Chairman of Polish Armed Forces War Memorial Project in The National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire 2008-09. Chairman of The Polish Heritage Society UK 2010, Chairman since 2012 of L'Association Polonaise des Chevaliers de Malte UK. Awarded The Polish Army Gold Medal 2010, The Officer's Cross Polonia Restituta 2010, The Officer's Cross Pro Merito Melitensi 2011, The UK Airborne Forces Association Medal - Utrunque Paratus - Ad Unum Omnes 2013. Awarded an MBE in Her Majesty Birthday's Honours List 2012. He obtained his Ph.D from King's College, London 1974 - 1978. Military History at University of Buckingham 2013 - 2016. Visiting Professor at UCL since 2007. Producer of the 2013 documentary film on Polish story of the Battle of Arnhem, covering the fate of Major General Stanisław Sosabowski CBE and the 1st Polish Independent Parachute Brigade at Arnhem and Driel, Sept. 1944. Member of the Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies (RUSI), London.



Dr. Eugenia Maresch, a committee member and Chairwoman of the Polish Underground (1939-1945 Study Trust) in London. Dr. Maresch is the author of an acclaimed body of work on WWII, including '*Katyń 1940: The Documentary Evidence of the West's Betrayal*' published in June, 2010, regarding the mass murder of 22,000 Poles by the Soviet NKVD at Katyń. Information surrounding Katyń came to light with Russian *perestroika*, which made it possible to disclose a key document indicating the circumstances of the massacre. A bitter dispute is ongoing between the Russian and Polish governments to declassify the rest of the documents. Dr Maresch's advice in all aspects of this important conference was critical and invaluable.



Mr. Chris Januszewski, a committee member of The Polish Heritage Society UK. In 2013 he helped to organise the 1st two day Conference on the Polish Military Leadership at the RCDS (Royal College of Defence Studies) in conjunction with BCMH (British Commission for Military History). He leads on both of the two 2016 conferences, the first, The Polish Section of SOE or the 'Cichociemni' in June 2016 and late in the year, 15th October, The Falaise Gap and General Stanislaw Sosabowski conference. Both to be held at the Embassy of the Polish Republic in London. Chris is the son of the 1939 Polish Cavalry Officer who takes the family historic traditions very seriously. Without his commitment and time freely given, PHS UK conferences would not be the same.

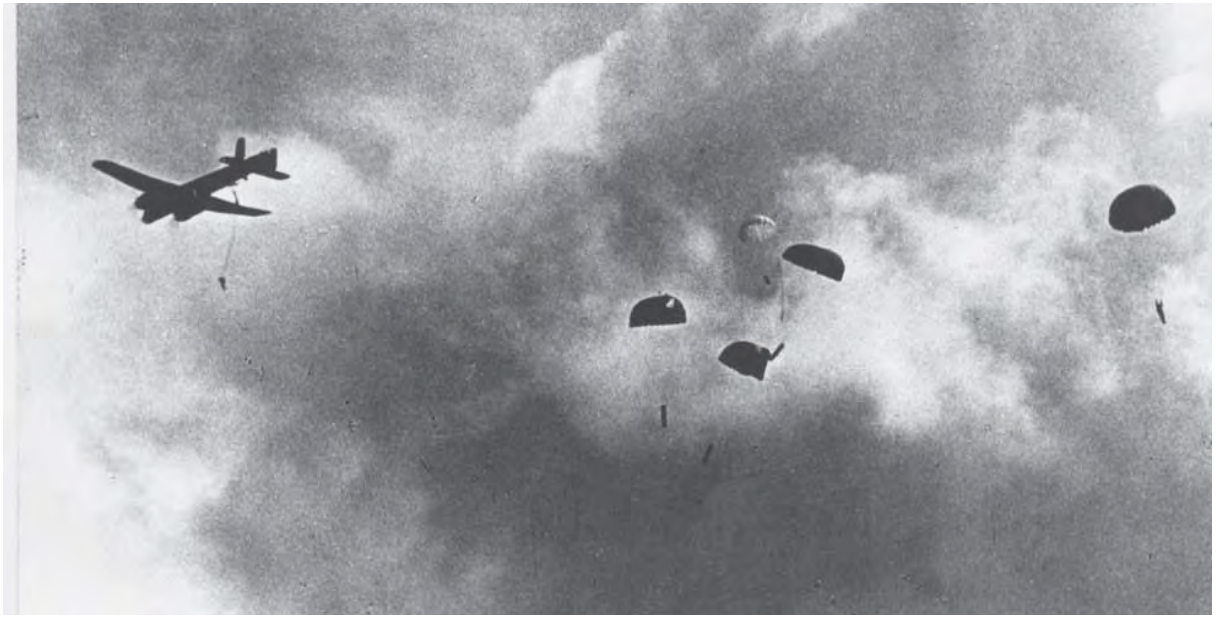


Above: Polish Air Force (PAF) airmen from 1586 Flight in September 1944 in Brindisi, Italy at the time when the Polish Home Army A.K. was preparing to liberate Warsaw in the Warsaw Rising.

Below: The Halifax in Brindisi with 2 engines on the view, before its route to Poland from Italy. The 1586 formation with F/Lt Szostak's crew who participated in many Special Duties flight routes, the number of operations increased to 31 by the addition of seven sorties to Poland. The last one was flown on the night of 30th May 1944, confirmed by PAF historian, Jerzy Cynk in *The Polish Airforce at War, The Official History 1943-1945*, Published 1998, ISBN 0-7643-0560-3 (Vol.2), and in Joseph Garliński's: *Poland, SOE and the Allies*, London 1969, SBN 04 355006 1.

Above: Polish Paras in Training

Below: Audley End House where Polish SOE agents were trained.



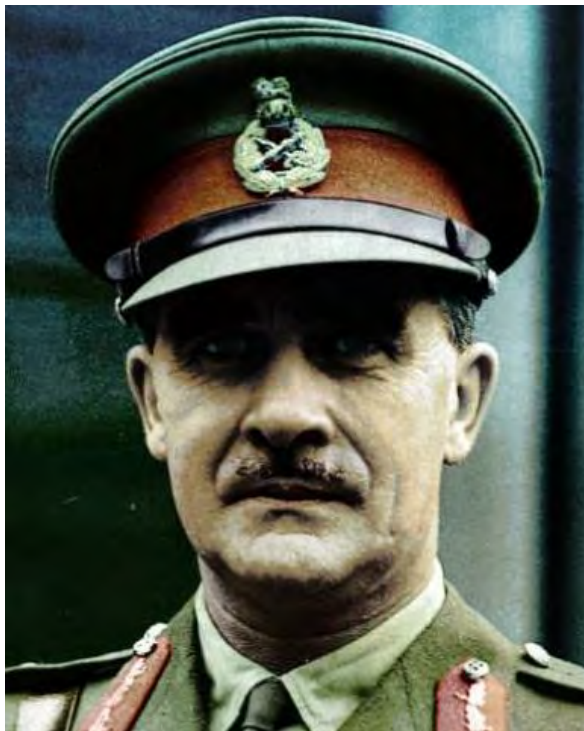


Above: Disembarking at Audley End House, near Saffron Walden, Essex, the former site of a Benedictine Abbey founded between 1139 and 1143.

Below: Polish SOE officers at the Station 43, Audley End House. L - R: Capt. Maksymilian Kruczała, Lt. Eugeniusz Janczyszyn, Lt Jerzy Zubrzycki, Lt, Aleksander Ihnatowicz, Major Jozef Hartman, Capt. Adam Mackus, Lt Antoni Pospieszalski (courtesy of Polish Underground Study Trust 1939-1945, London). Confirmed in 'Station 43' by Ian Valentine, Sutton Publishing 2004, ISBN 0 7509 4255 X.



Cichociemni, now the official soldiers of AK (The Home Army) in Poland. The middle R/H photograph shows "Ponury", real name Jan Piwnik, a legendary and very effective underground commander from Świętokrzyskie Mountains, trained in the UK.



Above L – R: General Władysław Sikorski, General Kazimierz Sosnkowski,

Below L – R: Brigadier, later General Colin Gubbins, Gen Tadeusz Bór Komorowski.



Above L – R: General Leopold Okulicki, Colonel Kazimierz Iranek- Osmecki,
Below L – R: Colonel Jozef Hartman, Lt. Colonel Maciej Kalenkiewicz.

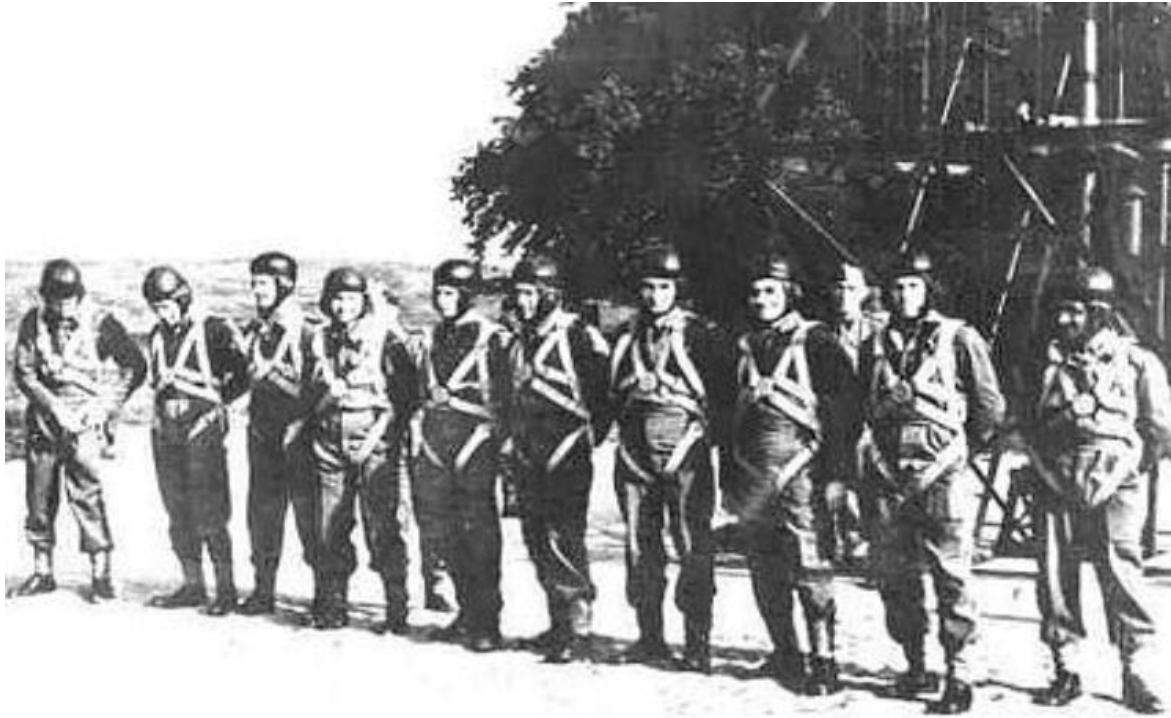


Above L – R: Capt. Tadeusz Klimowski, Father Col. Adam Pilch,

Below L – R: Brigadier General Elżbieta Zawacka “Zo”, Major Jan „Ponury” Piwnik,
Commander of Home Army partisan group „Ponury”.



Above L – R: Captain Alfons Alan Maćkowiak, Lt. Antoni Pospieszalski (Tony Currie),
Below L – R: General Stefan Bałuk, SOE Agent, Krystyna Skarbek (Christine Granville).



Early days in Scotland, where 1st Polish Independent Airborne Brigade provided critical training support for the 'Cichociemni'. Their Commanding Officer, General Stanisław Sosabowski was a father figure to all Polish parachutists and known to be very demanding but scrupulously fair.



Above: 20th August 1942 at the Audey End House, General Sikorski decorating Lt Michał Fijałka with the coveted Virtuti Militari Cross. The 'Cichociemni' in the civilian attire, ready for the drop in to the occupied Poland.

Below: The 'Ponury' group taking the Home Army A.K. Oath during the war in Poland.

The Polish Section of SOE and Poland's 'Silent and Unseen'



Immediately after the formation of SOE's Polish Section, Department VI began discreetly to recruit volunteers to parachute into Poland for special duties. The object was to inject into the Polish underground military a number of specialists trained in areas such as staff work, covert operations, intelligence, document forging, demolitions, signals and general sabotage skills. This was very much in line with SOE's primary mission. There was a gratifying surge of volunteers for the dangerous assignment to return to Poland, which included: 1 general officer, 112 staff officers, 894 junior officers, 592 NCOs, 771 privates, 15 women, 28 civilian political couriers.

Of these 2,413 volunteers, 606 completed the training and 579 qualified to jump. Hence the selection was exceptionally rigorous, with exactly one in four candidates completing training. Once accepted and trained, a volunteer became a *Cichociemny* and a member of what later came to be known collectively as the *Cichociemni* (the 'Silent and Unseen'). First of all, however, the candidates had to take a number of tests, after which they were sent for special training, since each of them would become a specialist in several skills. A great emphasis was laid on physical fitness, marksmanship and map-reading and this was followed by courses in covert operations and explosives. In September 1940, SOE set up the first covert operations course for Poles at Inverlochy Castle near Fort William in Western Scotland².

Aircraft which left for Poland in a number of successive operational seasons, which were tied closely to the arrival of longer nights. It was possible to fly from Great Britain from the end of August to the first half of April, while from Italy, which was a shorter route, from July to the end of May, thus almost continuously.

The period of trial flights began in February 1941 and ended in April 1942. The subsequent seasons were given code-names: '*Intonacja*'—September 1942 to April 1943, '*Riposta*'—September 1943 to July 1944 and '*Odwet*'—August to December 1944. Flights took place on moonlit nights with a full moon, or in the so-called third phase between the beginning of the second and the end of the third quarters of the moon. At the beginning of 1943, trials were made flying on moonless nights, initially only with supplies, but from the spring of 1944 with parachutists too.

During '*Intonacja*' 42 drops were made, 28 with *Cichociemni* and the rest just with supplies; 106 *Cichociemni* were dropped, as well as 9 couriers and a Hungarian radio-telegraphist who was later slipped into Hungary. One of the *Cichociemni* was killed jumping, and a further 3 perished together with their Polish aircrew.

'*Riposta*' began with flights from England, followed by a short period from Tunisia and then from Brindisi in Italy. Two hundred and five missions were carried out, of which 36 carried parachutists. They also included 3 '*Wildhorn*' missions (called 'Bridges' by the Poles) when *Dakota* aircraft actually landed on Polish soil. One hundred and forty-six parachutists were carried—135 *Cichociemni*, 10 couriers and 1 woman. '*Odwet*'s' main effort focused on helping the Home Army during the Warsaw Uprising. There were 229 successful missions out of 410 attempted, not counting those which ended in '*blind*' drops, all carried out by American, British, Polish and South African aircrews. *Cichociemni* were dropped in only 7 missions. Thirty-one *Cichociemni*, 2 couriers, as well as the 4 British members and 1 Pole of the British Military Mission were dropped. One of the *Cichociemni* was killed jumping. Seventy aircraft, of which 30 were piloted by Poles, were lost flying to Poland; out of these 112 Polish airmen, 6 were rescued by the AK, 28 became POWs in German camps and the rest perished. Of the 606 people who completed the training, eventually 316 of them were secretly parachuted into occupied Poland.

The first operation "*Air Bridge*", as it was called took place on 15 February 1941. After 27 December 1944 further operations were discontinued, as by then most of Poland had been occupied by the Red Army. Of 316 *Cichociemni*, 103 perished during the war, in combat with the Germans, murdered by the Gestapo, or in air crashes. A further nine were murdered after the war by the communist secret services.

Almost 100 *cichociemni* were in Warsaw or in the area of the Kampinos Forest nearby when the Warsaw Uprising broke out. Their contribution to operations during the Uprising was considerable. They were to be found everywhere: on the front line they commanded well-known detachments such as '*Parasol*', '*Baszta*', '*Czata 49*' and '*Rum*'. They worked on staffs, in communications and in weapons manufacture. Eighteen of them, 20%, were either killed or were missing in action. One of them was in on the final act, the capitulation, which was signed in Ożarów by Colonel Kazimierz Iranek-Osmecki, a *cichociemny*, on behalf of the AK Commander-in-Chief. After Warsaw's capitulation, some of the *cichociemni* went into captivity. Others left the city with the civilian population in order to keep working underground until the end of the war.

² "First to Fight, Poland's Contribution to the Allied Victory in WWII", Edited by Dr. Mark Stella-Sawicki, Jarek Garlinski and Stefan Mucha, ISBN 978-0-9557824-4-2, 2009 MSS Consulting.

The Polish Intelligence Service 1939-1945

In May 1945, Winston Churchill requested a report summing up the achievements of the Polish Intelligence Service throughout the war years. **It showed that between the 3rd of September 1939 and the 8th of May 1945, 45,770 reports had been generated by British Intelligence, of which 22,047 (48%) had come from Polish sources covering a wide range of enemy activities³. This information came into the public domain only in 2005.**

Writing in 1945, Commander Wilfred Dunderdale of the British Secret Intelligence Service stated: 'Polish agents worked unceasingly and well in Europe during the last five years and they provided, often at great danger to themselves and to their relatives, a vast amount of material of all kinds on a wide range of subjects. The Polish Intelligence Service made an invaluable contribution to the planning and the successful execution of the invasion of Europe and to the ultimate victory of the Allied forces in Europe.'

At the end of the war, the Polish Department II was wound up. It burned some of its files for fear that they might end up in the hands of the new Communist regime in Warsaw and handed others over to the British for safe keeping. Many, if not most, of these were subsequently destroyed by the British for reasons, which to this day remain unclear.



³ "First to Fight, Poland's Contribution to the Allied Victory in WWII", Edited by Dr. Mark Stella-Sawicki, Jarek Garliński and Stefan Mucha, ISBN 978-0-9557824-4-2, 2009 MSS Consulting.

ABOVE L - R: General Sikorski with Prime Minister Churchill, Mrs Sikorska with Prime Minister Churchill,
Below: Photograph with Inscription: "To my friend & comrade General Sikorski from Winston Churchill", January 31st 1942.



ARMIA KRAJOWA
Struktury terenowe
w 1944

Regional Structure of the Polish Home Army in 1944



Zbigniew Jasiński (Rudy) — Poet of the Warsaw 1944 Uprising

We demand ammunition!

Translated from Polish by Basia Korzeniowska

*Here we fight with wolves' teeth, our caps skewed to the side.
Here no-one weeps in this Warsaw of war.
Here we crush the Germans astride on their backs
and strangle our enemies with fists that are raw.*

*But you keep on singing: that with the ashes of brotherly blood
Warsaw is being destroyed in the smoke of the flames.
Yet here, we with bare breasts take the force of the flood
to your amazement and awe, your praise and acclaim.*

*Why do you in London still intone the funereal lament
when we finally have reason to await the feast.
Girls fight in the streets alongside their young men
Children fight too, blood pours against the beast.*

*Listen. Poland's heart is beating here. Here is Warsaw calling:
Get those dirges off the air—they're an imposition.
We've spirit enough for ourselves—and there's enough for you.*

We really don't need your applause.

We demand ammunition!



Żądamy amunicji !

*Tu zęby mamy wilcze, a czapki na bakier,
Tu u nas nikt nie płacze w walczącej Warszawie,
Tu się Prusakom siada na karku okrakiem
I wrogów gołą pięścią za gardło się dławi.*

*A wy tam wciąż śpiewacie, że z kurzem krwi bratniej,
że w dymie pożarów niszczyje Warszawa,
A my tu – nagą pierśią na strzały armatnie
Na podziw wasz, na śpiewy i na wasze brawa.*

*Czemu żałobny chorał śpiewacie wciąż w Londynie
Gdy tu nadeszło wreszcie oczekiwane święto?
U boków swoich chłopców tu walczą dziewczęta
I małe dzieci walczą i krew radośnie płynie.*

*Hallo!... Tu serce Polski!... Tu mówi Warszawa!
Niech pogrzebowe śpiewy wyrzucą z audycji.
Nam ducha starczy dla nas i starczy go dla was.*

Oklasków też nie trzeba.

Żądamy amunicji !



Confirmed Sabotage and/or Diversionary Actions by AK - Armia Krajowa and ZWZ - Związek Walki Zbrojnej

1st January 1941-30th June 1944

Damaged locomotives	6,930
Delayed repairs to locomotives	803
Transport set on fire	443
Derailed Transports	732
Damage to railway wagons	19,058
Disruptions to electricity supplies (Warsaw grid)	638
Army vehicles damaged or destroyed	4,326
Damaged aeroplanes	28
Fuel tanks destroyed	1,167
Fuel destroyed (Tonnes)	4,674
Built-in faults in parts for aircraft engines	4,710
Built-in faults into artillery missiles	92,000
Built-in faults into condensers	70,000
Damage to important factory machinery	2,872
Various acts of sabotage performed	25,145
Planned assassinations of the Enemy	5,733
Built-in faults into air traffic radio stations	107

Source:

Station 43, Ian Valentine, Sutton Publishing 2004, ISBN 0 7509 4255X, p.186



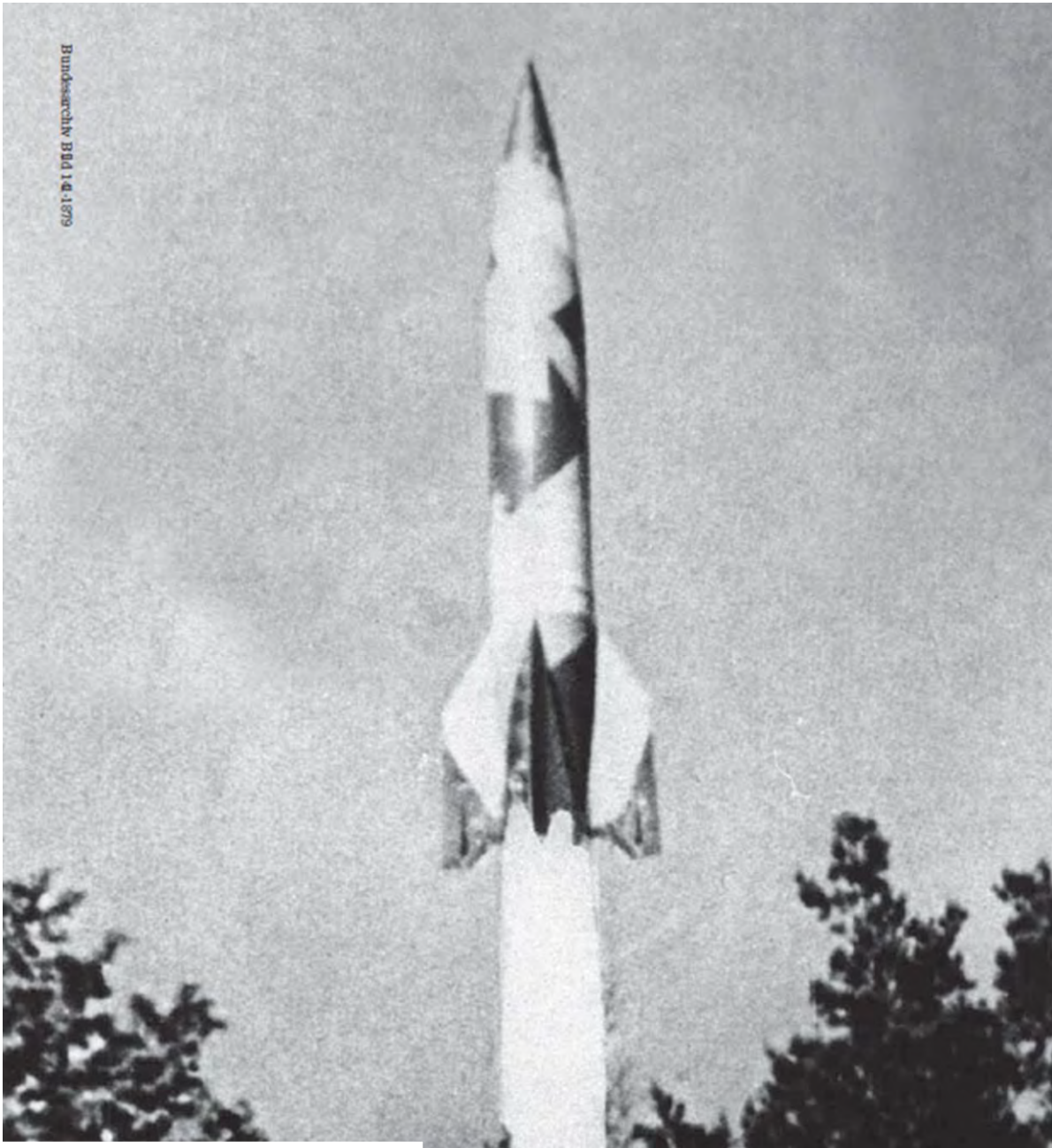
On May 20, 1944, a relatively undamaged V-2 rocket fell on the swampy bank of the Bug river near Sarnaki and local Poles managed to hide it before German arrival. Subsequently, the rocket was dismantled and smuggled across Poland. Operation Most III (Bridge III) secretly transported parts of the rocket out of Poland for analysis by British intelligence.

Arguably Poland's greatest contribution to the Allied war effort was made quietly in the 1930s, several years before the first shot had even been fired. In 1932, a team of Polish cryptanalysts, working for Polish Military Intelligence, including the mathematician Marian Rejewski and his colleagues Henryk Zygalski and Jerzy Różycki, succeeded in breaking the German Enigma electromechanical coding machine, which had hitherto defied the best efforts of British and French cryptanalysts.

Bundesarchiv Bild 146-1975-117-26



An example of the Enigma encrypted German document as reported by "C" to the Prime Minister Winston Churchill in August 1944.



As from the September 1944, more than 3,000 V-2 rockets were launched by the German Wehrmacht against Allied targets in WWII, beginning with London, later against Antwerp and Liège. As reported by BBC in 2011 documentary, these attacks resulted in the deaths of some 9,000 civilians and other military personnel, while 12,000 forced labourers and prisoners of concentration camps perished whilst producing these weapons.

Honorary Committee:

HE Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the Court of Saint James, Witold Sobków
Field Marshal the Lord Guthrie of Craigiebank,

Major General John Drewienkiewicz Gen (DZ) CB CMG BCMH,

Major General Mungo Melvin CB OBE BCMH RUSI,

Colonel Piotr Gąstał - The Commander of the Special Missions Unit (CT) GROM,

Colonel Richard Ciągłinski, Colonel Mike Russell, Jaroslaw Garliński, Dr Eugenia Maresh -

The Polish Underground Movement (1939-1945) Study Trust (PUMST), Marzenna Schejbal

Armia Krajowa (AK) - Home Army.

Polish SOE Veterans - Cichociemni:

Captain Alan Alfons Maćkowiak (London UK),

Aleksander Tarnawski (Poland).

Executive Committee:

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Military History Conference

Diary Date: 15th October 2016, Polish Embassy, London



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Full conference details to follow





Somewhere in Poland