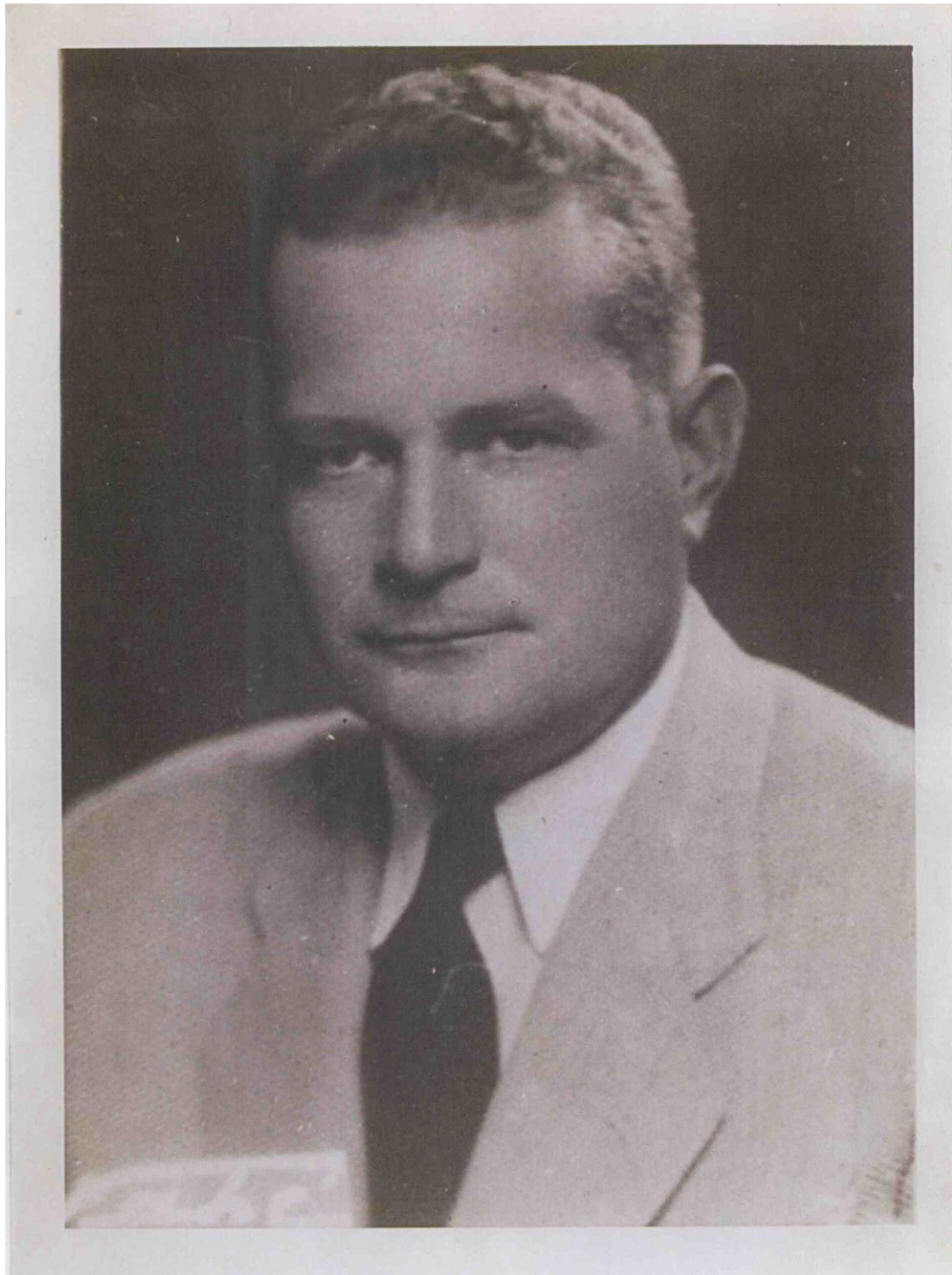


Leszek Andrzej Rencki - son of Professor Roman Rencki

1907 - 1965

Polish version - PL

English version – EN



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Leszek Andrzej Rencki was born in Lwów on 9 July 1907 and graduated from the Jan Kazimierz University (UJK) in Lwów in 1930 with a Master's Degree in Law.

After spending 4 years at the Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego in Lwów, he joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Warsaw in 1934.

After 4 years in Warsaw, **Leszek was sent abroad in 1938**. With the exception of trip during which he tried to save his Parents in 1939, Leszek never set foot in Poland again.

Leszek spent the following years abroad while working for the Polish government:

1938-1940: Polish Embassy in Belgrade, Yugoslavia (Serbia)

1940-1941: Polish Embassies in Ankara and Istanbul, Turkey

1941-1950: Polish Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon

8 May 1945: As the official Head of Press Attaché at the Polish Embassy in Beirut, Leszek officially declared the end of WWII on Beirut Radio (at 8am – 4 hours before the UK, USA and Soviet Union made their own declarations)

Leszek Escaped Communism

1945-1950: Avoided Communism while in Beirut, Lebanon

1950-1965: Avoided Communism while in London, United Kingdom

1965: Died in London, United Kingdom

Professor Roman Rencki (1867-1941)

<https://romanrencki.wordpress.com>

Professor Roman Rencki - son Leszek Rencki (1907-1965)

<https://romanrencki.wordpress.com>

Leszek Andrzej Rencki (1907 - 1965)

Background historical information created by **Marek Rencki FRAI**, Co-Founder and Director of the Polish Heritage Society UK - son of **Leszek Rencki** and youngest grandson of **Professor Roman Rencki**.

Summary of Leszek Rencki's Family

Leszek Andrzej Rencki was born in Lwów (Austria at the time) on 9 July 1907.

Leszek's Father: Roman Henryk Rencki (born 19 July 1867 in Rolnik, Rzeszów - Austria at the time) - a Medical Professor at Lwów University (UJK) - murdered by the Nazi Gestapo on 4 July 1941 along with numerous colleagues (15 days before his 74th birthday).

Detailed information: <https://romanrencki.wordpress.com>.

Leszek's Mother: Paula Rencka (born Paula Broda, 27 May, 1871 in Lwów) - married Roman Henryk Rencki in 1900 - arrested and expelled by the Soviet Union to Kazhakstan in 1940. Died on 22 October 1960 in London, aged 89. Leszek organised and personally paid for his mother's funeral (Bobola Church, Shepherd's Bush, W12, followed by Kensal Green Cemetery, Grave 3114xx).

Leszek's Sister: Maria (born in 1906 in Lwów) - married and divorced twice. She had 1 child - Jacek born in 1933 (still alive in 2018). She died in London in 1979.

Leszek's Brother: Zygmunt (born in 1911 in Lwów) - married in 1939 in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. Died in 1985 in Wales. Had 2 children - Dziazia born in 1941 (still alive in 2018) and Roman Rencki born in 1948 (still alive in 2018).

Leszek's Wife: Eleonora Kotwicz-Lenkiewicz (born on 14 April 1924 in Zelwa, raised in Grodno, Poland). Married Leszek on 19 August 1948 in Beirut (Lebanon) - married for 16 years until Leszek died on 10 February 1965. Re-married 12 years later in 1977 to Bill Ganley, Chief Superintendent of the Police. She died in London on 12 December 2007, aged 83, and, after being cremated at her own request, is partially buried at Kensal Green Cemetery and partially at St. Andrew Bobola Church together with Leszek and Paula Rencki.

Leszek's Son: Marek (born on 8 June 1950 in Beirut) - lives in England. Marek Rencki was responsible for creating this website on both his grandfather Professor Roman Rencki and his father Leszek Rencki.

Marek's official titles:

- **Founder & Director**, Anglo-Polish Bankers Club (SKI Club)
- **Founder & Director**, Polish Heritage Society UK (PHS)
- **Director**, Polish Cultural Foundation Ltd
- **Patron**, Conservative Party
- **Patron**, Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC)
- Fellow Royal Anthropological Institute (**FRAI**)

- **Owner, Rencki Map Collection** (2,235 Maps of Poland / 2nd largest Polish map collection in the world after the collection of the Zamek Królewski, the largest Museum in Warsaw)

In July 2017, Marek Rencki contacted his favourite Polish Church – The St. Andrew Bobola Polish RC Church in London, 1 Leysfield Road, Shepherd's Bush, London W12 9JF, and, as a personal acquaintance of the church's patron, Paweł Pastuszek, Marek was able to purchase and mount the following 3 family plaques outside the church (Section No. 6):

- Grandmother – Paula Rencka (27 May 1871 – 22 October 1960)
- Father – Leszek Andrzej Rencki (9 July 1907 – 10 February 1965)
- Mother – Eleonora Kasia Rencka (14 April 1924 – 12 December 2007).

Leszek Rencki's Early Life (1907 - 1925)

Leszek was born in Lwów on 9 July 1907 (part of the Austrian Empire at the time). In 1913, his parents took him and his siblings to Puck on the edge of Baltic Sea (Germany) for the summer. Tragically, at the age of 6, Leszek fell during the trip and broke his right leg.

Though **his father Roman Rencki was a Medical Professor at Lwów University (UJK)** – a pathologist, responsible for the specific treatment of internal medicine diseases – he could not personally treat Leszek.

Roman Rencki eventually took Leszek to Switzerland in the summer of 1914 where he had Leszek treated by Swiss Medical Experts. Unfortunately, though his right leg was much improved, it remained slightly shorter and much thinner than his left leg for the rest of his life.

Leszek stayed with his parents in Leysin, Switzerland (north of Lake Geneva) for two more years (1914 - 1916) and, whilst there, he went to a local school and learnt to speak French fluently (“ecole primaire”).

The reason why Leszek and his parents stayed in Switzerland at that time was because the First World War broke out, and Eastern Austria (including Lwów at the time) was invaded by Russia. **Leszek's father Roman Rencki was invited to join the General Committee of Relief for Polish Victims of War led by Henryk Sienkiewicz** (Nobel Prize Laureate 1905) **and Ignacy Paderewski**, based in Vevey, Switzerland, where tragically Sienkiewicz died on 15 November 1916 at the age of 70.

Leszek joined his parents in Lwów in 1917 when Russia was expelled from Eastern Austria. He initially went to the famous Adam Mickiewicz school at the age of 10 (5 years) followed by his final 3 years at the Stefan Bator school, both in Lwów. He graduated on 19 May 1925, after which he attended Lwów University.

On 11 November 1918 (Leszek was 11 years old) - when Poland became a free country after 123 years - the new Ukrainian Army (which consisted entirely of the local Austrian Army during WW1) invaded Lwów but was defeated and expelled in May 1919 (2 months before Leszek's 12th birthday).



Leszek's father was born to the Kamyk family just outside Rzeszów. He was the eldest child of 6 in a peasant family. Roman Rencki was the only child who completed school and graduated from university (Jagiellonian University in Krakow). He later changed his name from Kamyk to Rencki on 2 May 1894, upon his graduation. Leszek never met any Kamyks.

Leszek Rencki's Academic Life (1925 - 1930)

In 1925, upon graduating from school at the age of 18, Leszek joined the famous University of Lwów ("Uniwersytet Jana Kazimierza / UJK") and completed a full, 5-year course in law, graduating with MA in Law (Magister Prawa) in 1930, aged 23.

During his first year at the university, he immediately showed great responsibility by becoming **one of the founding members of the Aragonia Fraternity** alongside his fellow law students (October 1925).

The Aragonia Fraternity had a total of 74 members throughout its existence (1925 - 1939), 8 of whom were **Honorary Members, including Professor Roman Rencki, who had been the Head of Medicine at Lwów University (UJK) since 1920.**

ARAGON was created by 10 UJK students (most of whom studied law), who were historically recorded as the Founders (including the Presidents) of the fraternity:

1. Jerzy Horwath
2. Marian Król
3. Zdzisław Krysiński [MA Law Graduate]
4. Czesław Lang [MA Law Graduate] - President 1927 & 1929
5. Tadeusz Murdzyński
6. Adolf Bolesław Pokorny [MA Medical Graduate] - President 1931
7. Józef Rastawiecki
- 8. Lesław Andrzej Rencki [MA Law Graduate] Vice-President 1929, President 1930**
9. Rudolf Rogowski - President 1925 - 1926
10. Tadeusz Zaleski - President 1929 - 1930

All the Founders and Members of Aragon would hold a Festive Parade in Lwów in May every year (1926 - 1939).

This detailed list was created by **Bartłomiej P. Wróblewski** in 2010. The fraternity is now known as the "Polska Korporacja Akademicka 'Aragonia' ['Aragon' Polish Fraternity]

Leszek Rencki was the Founder of the Archivum i Muzeum Polskich Korporacji Akademickich (Archive and Museum of Polish Fraternities).

Item= www.archiwumkorporacyjne.pl

[In September 2016, Founder Dr. Bartłomiej P. Wróblewski became an MP for Poznan.]

Whilst at university, Leszek also personally established a **historical group** called "**Klub Inter-Mare**" in 1927, which, for historical reasons, celebrated Poland's status in the early 17th century as a huge country that stretched between the Baltic and the Black Sea (19 June 1928 – when Leszek was 21, the Komisja Poborowa in Lwów exempted Leszek from military service).

Leszek Rencki working in Poland (1930 - 1938)

Leszek graduated in 1930 and, having received his MA in Law, joined the legal department of the largest bank in Lwów (and the 7th largest bank in Poland at that time) - **Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego (BGK)**.

Though he enjoyed working at BGK,- and was promoted within 1 year in 1931, the problem for him was that this Bank only covered the south-eastern part of Poland and had no international business outside of Poland, especially in Europe.

Thus, after 4 pleasant years at BGK, Leszek decided that he would like to travel regularly abroad in order to find out more about life outside Poland.

Józef Beck was the Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs at the time (1932 - 1939) and he interviewed Leszek and offered him a position. Subsequently, he would speak with Leszek regularly (very sadly, Józef Beck escaped to Romania in September 1939 when Poland was attacked by Germany and the Soviet Union, and he died very young at 49 years of age in Singureni, Romania, on 5 June 1944).

Leszek's father Roman Rencki approved of Leszek leaving Lwów, delighted to hear that his son Leszek was joining the Polish Foreign Ministry. As a parting gift, Roman Rencki obtained a beautiful painting of himself by the **famous Polish painter Boleslaw Barbacki** (who was tragically executed by the Gestapo on 21 August 1941 in Nowy Czas) - attached on the front page of the Roman Rencki research publication by Marek Rencki.

Leszek received this magnificent painting in 1934, taking it with him to Warsaw and later every time he emigrated to a different country (Yugoslavia, Turkey, Lebanon and the United Kingdom). After Leszek died in 1965, his son Marek received this painting on his 21st birthday (1971) from his mother Kasia.

Currently, Marek Rencki has had the portrait for 46 years but, since he has no family, he has decided to eventually offer this famous painting to the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, where his grandfather Roman Rencki studied and graduated from medical studies from 1885 to 1890; alternatively, Marek may offer the painting to Wrocław University: the Uniwersytet Jana Kazimierza (UJK), where Prof. Roman Rencki was Head of Medicine in the years 1920 – 1938, was eventually moved from Lwów to Wrocław in 1946 after the war, but became Wrocław University as the name UJK was no longer available.

Leszek resigned from BGK in 1934 and was accepted immediately **to join the Polish Foreign Ministry** in Warsaw. However, while he joined the Foreign Ministry as a member of staff, Leszek was also discretely invited to join the **Polish International Intelligence Services ("Służba Wywiadowcza")**, to which he agreed immediately.

Leszek studied and worked tremendously hard during the years 1934 to 1938 whilst in Warsaw. Financially comfortable (his Father Roman Rencki was a millionaire by this time), Leszek took both his Parents on holiday to Egypt in 1937.



Leszek Rencki with both his parents Roman and Paula during their holiday in 1937 to Egypt. Here they can be seen riding camels outside the Great Sphinx during a visit to the ancient Giza Necropolis (Khafre's Pyramid) outside of Cairo.

Leszek Rencki in Belgrade, Yugoslavia / Serbia (1938 - 1940)

In 1938, Leszek was officially transferred as a **Press Attaché to the Polish Embassy** in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. In reality, this was his first international position as a **Member of the Polish International Intelligence service**.

Having worked within the Polish International Intelligence, Leszek became aware that a major war was about to break out in Europe (and obviously in Poland) and travelled to Lwów in August 1939 in an attempt to convince his parents that they should leave Lwów and Poland - he suggested that they join him initially in Belgrade, where he was currently based, before subsequently continuing on to Switzerland where they had stayed for 2 years during WWI in 1914 - 1916.

Despite Leszek's explanation that Switzerland had been a neutral country since the Middle Ages and would therefore not be affected by the war, he was unfortunately unable to convince them to leave Poland - more information about Roman Rencki during WW2, written by Marek Rencki FRAI, can be found at <https://romanrencki.wordpress.com>.

Leszek subsequently met with **his younger brother Zygmunt** and his soon-to-be wife Katarzyna, and, by offering to pay for their travel expenses, he convinced them to leave Lwów and join him in Belgrade.

Once they arrived in Belgrade, Leszek managed to obtain a medical job at the Polish Embassy for his brother, where Zygmunt worked until he was transferred to Palestine (Katarzyna gave birth to her daughter Dzia in Belgrade in 1941 and moved with Zygmunt to Palestine). Zygmunt stayed in Palestine until 1946 when he emigrated to North Wales, where he found work at the Polish Hospital in Penley, run by the Head of Polish Medicine, Doctor Michał Bereza.

(Leszek regularly visited his brother and sister-in-law in Palestine and looked after them while they were living there as he also moved to the Middle East, specifically Beirut, in 1941 as the Head of Polish Intelligence for Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Palestine during the war – further details below).

Leszek Rencki in Istanbul, Turkey (1940 - 1941)

After WWII started, Leszek was officially transferred to Ankara (Turkey) as **the Press Attaché of the Polish Embassy**, though it was actually based in Istanbul. The vast majority of the most important people in Turkey – both Turkish and foreigners - lived and worked in Istanbul rather than Ankara - which is still the case today.

In reality, Leszek had been promoted to be the **Deputy Head of Polish International Intelligence** working out of Istanbul. The most important head of Polish International Intelligence in Turkey at the time was Włodzimierz Ledochowski (1942 - 1944).

Leszek stated (many decades after the war) that the most important and largest division of Turkish Intelligence was based in Istanbul. He became very friendly with this division and spent a great deal of time with them. However, they were also incredibly dangerous and regularly tortured many Turkish citizens.

Many years after the War, Leszek described how he was invited by Turkish Intelligence to see how they torture detainees. The team in Istanbul would take a prisoner (usually male), lie him down naked on a low table and cover him with a large but tight coat.

They would then trap a fox, which had not been fed for at least a week, and often longer, inside the coat, and inevitably the fox would start to eat the chest and / or stomach of the prisoner. The prisoner would then of course quickly start screaming and crying...and before long they would provide the Intelligence team with whatever information they had requested.

Leszek was astonished and shocked at this practice and tried to avoid attending such torture. He was, however, inevitably forced to bear witness to this regularly by the Istanbul division. He had always maintained that the only regimes to conduct torture during WWII were Germany, the Soviet Union, Spain and Japan. He was therefore stunned and shocked by what he saw in Turkey.

Leszek Rencki in Beirut, Lebanon (1941 - 1950)

After the Soviet Union was attacked by Germany, Poland and the Soviet Union became allies, and well over a million Polish people were released from imprisonment in Siberia and Kazakhstan. Several thousands left Russia and arrived in the Middle East, mainly in Palestine (in territory that would later become Israel) and Lebanon.

Leszek was promoted again and sent from Istanbul to Beirut as the Head of Polish Intelligence and the official Press Attaché at the Polish Embassy in Beirut. His responsibilities were vastly increased as he was now responsible for Polish Intelligence in Lebanon, Palestine, Syria and Jordan.

Crucially, the new, revised Polish Army was formed in the Middle East. Leszek was 34 years old in 1941 and, astonishingly, having arrived in Beirut, he was informed that as he was less than 40 years old, he was to attend an interview and possibly be conscripted into the new army.

He attended the interview with the Chief of Polish Conscription and was asked to stand for a brief 20 minutes without any clothing from the waist up (no jacket, shirt or tie). He was quickly informed that, being "so healthy" and "so strong", he would immediately be conscripted as a regular soldier.

Leszek was astonished at this display of incompetence and stupidity - he therefore removed his trousers and showed his right leg, which was half the normal size. The army representatives were shocked and decided not to enlist him as a soldier. Leszek got dressed and, prior to leaving the meeting, showed his Polish Intelligence papers to the Colonel in charge - who was shocked and apologised to Leszek. Leszek obtained a Certificate of Discharge (Record 1791/41) on 26 April 1941 from the Polish Military Conscription Commission.

At the same time Leszek arrived in Lebanon, his family (his mother Paula, sister Maria and nephew Jacek) were allowed to leave Kazakhstan and arrived in Palestine. Leszek saw his family regularly around this time; he had a problem with his sister Maria, who, while her husband Dr. Józef Dąbrowski was away on duty as a member of military medical personnel, had numerous lovers while in Palestine, all of whom were Polish military personnel stationed in the Middle East (all with the rank of Colonel or higher).

(The greatest personal tragedy suffered by Leszek and his family was the murder of his father, Professor Roman Rencki, at the hands of the Nazi Gestapo on 4 July 1941 – unfortunately, Leszek and his family did not find out about this tragedy until after the war. There is a very detailed, 27-page publication on Professor Roman Rencki available at <https://romanrencki.wordpress.com>.)

Leszek Rencki's close ties with Palestine (Israel)

Whilst based in Lebanon, being responsible for numerous intelligence actions during WW2 as well as being the Press Attaché of the Polish Embassy, Leszek became a close personal friend of **David Ben-Gurion** (born in Płońsk, Poland; attended Warsaw University in 1905-1906 prior to emigrating to Palestine - **eventually became the First Prime Minister of Israel in 1948**).

David Ben-Gurion actually personally approached Leszek in Beirut, informing him that numerous Polish Jews were being murdered in Lebanon. Leszek and the Polish Embassy were shocked to discover this; tragically, Leszek and his team would later regularly find the bodies of dead Polish Jews - almost every week. Leszek personally saw to their burial arrangements.

David Ben-Gurion and his wife regularly spent long weekends as guests in Leszek's house in Beirut. Over dinner one evening, Ben-Gurion told a wonderful joke about historical Jews, stating that the ancient Jews had made a serious mistake.....

Lead by Moses, they left Egypt 3,500 years ago, spending 40 years in Kadesh-Barnes (Sinai). According to Ben-Gurion, the Jews travelled to Israel instead of going to Ezion-Geber and then turning sharply South-East to Saudi Arabia. Had Moses chosen this alternative route, all the Jews (including Ben-Gurion) would have been the richest people in the world - all millionaires and many billionaires....instead of being poor for more than 3,500 years!!!

David Ben-Gurion deliberately saved Leszek's life on 22 July 1946 by personally telephoning him at the bar of the King David Hotel in Jerusalem (which was, in addition to being one of the best restaurants in Palestine, also the Headquarters of the British military in the region), warning him to immediately leave the King David Hotel before lunch. The hotel was destroyed in a bomb attack a couple of minutes later by Irgun (91 deaths, of which two thirds were Jews working for the Hotel and one third were British Military Officers).

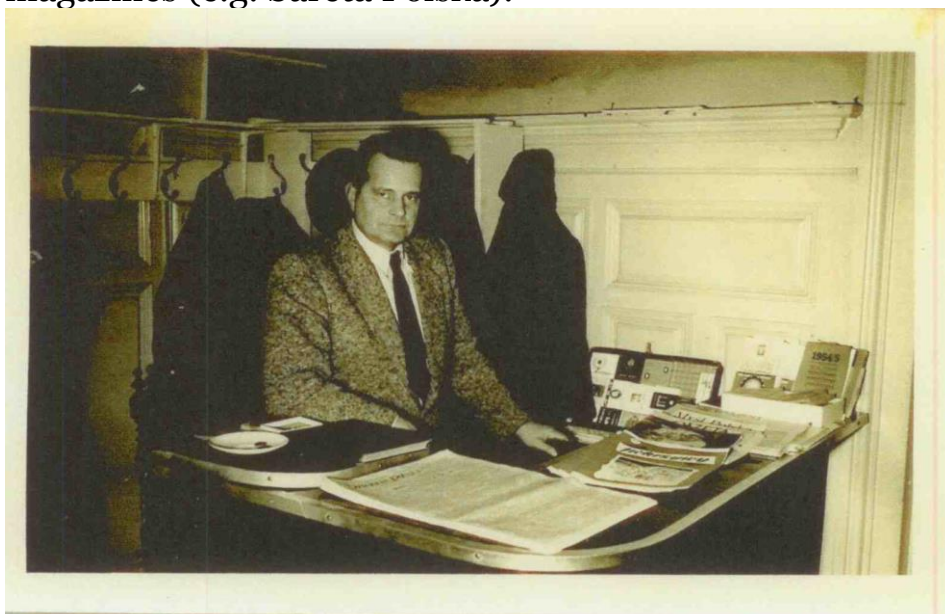
This explosion - and the murder of numerous British military officers - was organised by the Jewish Irgun paramilitary group, which was run by **Menachim Begin** (born in Brześć in 1913 and graduated from Warsaw University in 1935), who also **eventually became the Prime Minister of Israel** in 1977.

Given his position in Polish intelligence, Leszek worked very closely with **Palmach B** (which, after Israel's declaration of independence, **became the IDF - Israel Defence Force**).

(In addition, Leszek also worked very closely in collaboration with the British SIS (MI6) and the American OSS (now CIA).

Leszek Rencki's personal meeting with Władysław Sikorski

During his time as the Press Attaché of the Polish Embassy in Beirut, Leszek would write articles for various publications - mainly for the local French newspaper (Agence de Presse Polonaise) as well as Polish magazines (e.g. Sareta Polska).



"Radio Bejrut - ostatnia mowa Premiera" – was written by Leszek and published on 16 August 1944 in the Polish magazine "W Drodze".

The Polish Prime Minister and Head of the Polish Army, General Władysław Sikorski, arrived in the Middle East on 24 May 1943 in order to see the new Polish Army based in Palestine and Syria. Leszek wrote and published this article concerning the new Polish Army in the Middle East; in the article, he also writes about Sikorski's review of the Army as well as an interview he gave and his eventual tragic death.

Given the fact that Leszek was the Head of Polish Intelligence in the Middle East, he also met Prime Minister Władysław Sikorski privately in person.

Tragically, shortly after leaving the Middle East, Sikorski died on 4 July 1943 as his plane crashed into the sea after taking off from Gibraltar.

Leszek Rencki officially declares the end of World War Two

Many things changed after the end of the war. Since Leszek was the official Press Attaché for Poland in the Middle East, and since, due to the difference in timezones, the Middle East was ahead of Europe by 4 hours and the fact that Leszek was a citizen of one of the winning countries in the war, **Leszek officially declared the end of the war on Beirut Radio on 8 May 1945** in French, 4 hours (8 am) before the British Government made their own announcement via the BBC in London.

Inevitably, the British Embassy was outraged and very upset at Leszek's declaration because they were convinced that they - and nobody else - should officially declare the end of the war.

Regardless, every newspaper and magazine in the central part of the Middle East congratulated Leszek for officially informing the entire world of the end of WWII before even the United Kingdom, the US, Canada and Russia did.

Leszek was also an official speaker for Radio-Levant in Beirut from 1945 and was officially appointed the Permanent Correspondent of the Eastern Press Agency (EPA in Lebanon, Syria and Jerusalem (now Israel) on 20 February 1947.

Leszek Rencki's post-war years in Beirut (1945-1950)

After the war, Leszek wrote and published (in French) "**Le sort Des Armées Polonaise**" (written in extensive detail on 3 pages of A4), in which he analysed the British Government's negative treatment of the Polish military immediately after the war - and its refusal to invite the Polish Army to commemorate the war in 1946.

1947 saw the Polish Ambassador's (RP Zygmunt Zawadowski) only arrest of a fellow Pole, in Lebanon. The branch of the Polish Army based in Northern Italy sent one of its junior lieutenants, **Zbigniew Jaszczolt**, to Lebanon in 1946. Jaszczolt claimed to be the Head of the Polish Army's Secret Service. In reality, this was a lie, and he was nothing of the sort as he possessed absolutely none of the qualities expected of an intelligence officer - discretion, subtlety, intellect, ruthlessness, etc.

In reality, he played no role in any meaningful capacity as a counter-intelligence officer but was involved mainly in smuggling contraband goods (coffee, cigars, diamonds, etc). Jaszczolt also attended the Academie Libanaise des Beaux Arts de Beyrouth (ALBA) but was expelled after only 1 term in the first year (1946) as he was intellectually out of his depth and very lazy, totally failing in French as well all of his Architecture studies and exams.

Zbigniew Jaszczolt was also responsible for the abduction and rape of many Polish women at the Université Saint-Joseph de Beyrouth (USJ), with one of his intended targets being **Eleonora Lenkiewicz, Head of the Polish Student Union** - he apparently told her during a lunch to drop out of the Université Saint-Joseph (USJ), stop seeing Leszek Rencki and go with him to Italy. Eleonora walked out without finishing her meal and refused to see him again.

Zbigniew Jaszczolt was seen as a low-ranking, naive and abrasive outsider and a rapist by the Polish Embassy staff, whom he used to pester incessantly. At the request of Polish Ambassador Zygmunt Zawadowski in Beirut, Leszek Rencki arrested him and interrogated him, and Jaszczolt broke down within 1 hour and confessed that his intentions in Lebanon were not really related to counter-intelligence but rather making a profit for himself. He would also boast about the sexual promiscuity of Polish women living in Beirut.

Polish Ambassador Zygmunt Zawadowski personally informed Jaszczolt that he would be officially expelled from Lebanon within 48 hours of his arrest and back to the Polish Army stationed in Northern Italy. The Lebanese Head of Secret Service (and later Foreign Minister), Joseph Harfouche, agreed with Zygmunt Zawadowski and confirmed Jaszczolt's expulsion from Lebanon.

Ironically, Zbigniew Jaszczolt – who attended the dreadful “Polish University College” in London (a failed temporary university established in 1947 and closed in 1953) – spent the rest of his life working for architects as a low-level clerk in London. Nevertheless, he apparently later claimed for many years that he was the "Head of Polish Intelligence" in the Middle East during and after the War.

In reality, Jaszczolt was the most hated man in London's Polish community, especially in Ealing, where numerous Polish people were subject to verbal abuse by Jaszczolt at every Annual General Meeting of the Polish community in Ealing. A well-known Polish Banker and auditor who voluntarily offered his services free of charge to the Polish community in Ealing for 9 years, was verbally assaulted by Jaszczolt (who was uneducated and did not understand finance) every single year during the annual meeting.

As a result, said banker and all of his colleagues in auditing were so upset by Jaszczolt and his selfish incompetence that they resigned from their roles in auditing free of charge for the Polish community in Ealing in the early 1990s.

Ironically, the majority of the people who attended Zbigniew Jaszczolt's funeral at the St. Andrew Bobola Church at 1:30 pm on Wednesday, 30 March 2005, followed by lunch at POSK, were there to celebrate his death (17 March 2005, aged 83) as he was the most hated man in London's Polish community.

He was also the only Polish person to be expelled from Beirut, Lebanon, by the Polish Embassy.

Leszek Rencki's marriage to Eleonora (Kasia) Kotwicz-Lenkiewicz

In addition, as the Press Attaché to the Polish Embassy, Leszek was invited by **Eleonora Lenkiewicz** (also known as Kasia), an undergraduate student of Politics at the French Université Saint-Joseph de Beyrouth (USJ)- which was run at the time by the leading French Université de Lyon – and also **President of the Polish Students Union** (“Madame La Secretaire de la Legation de Pologne” – title after marriage), to attend and speak at the Annual Polish Student's Ball in late 1947.

Eleonora was 23 years old at the time and, in her first year as President, calculated that there were at least 300 Polish students at 2 Lebanese Universities - mainly at Saint-Joseph but also at the American University of Beirut (AUB).

Whilst at University, she also became a very close friend of **the most famous Polish Priest in Lebanon - Władysław Rubin**. They spoke together at numerous meetings (University, schools, evenings). Rubin eventually became a Cardinal in the 1980s in Vatican City, Rome.

Both Leszek and Eleonora were very impressed by each other and shared the same sense of humour. **They married the following year on 19 August 1948 - Leszek was 41 (born 9 July 1907) and Eleonora was 24 (born 14 April 1924) – at the St. Francis Roman Catholic Parish Church, Beirut.**

After the wedding, with numerous friends in attendance, Leszek took Eleonora to his Large, wonderful house outside Beirut (where he normally spent weekends). When Eleonora arrived with Leszek, she was overwhelmed and shocked by the sight of 6 men armed with guns.



Leszek had to inform her for the first time that **he was the Head of Polish Intelligence in the Middle East**, and that she, as his wife, therefore also had to legally join the Polish Intelligence Service. **She of course agreed and legally - in front of these 6 men - became a member of Polish Intelligence.**

Though Eleonora stayed and attended the Université Saint-Joseph (USJ) until 1950, she became pregnant in September 1949 and gave birth to their son, **Krzysztof Marek, on 8 June 1950 (at 4 am) at the American University Hospital of Beirut (Dept. of Obstetrics).**

This was half-way through her final university exams, and she just managed to take and pass 6 out of her final 12 exams. Nevertheless, out of courtesy to Eleonora, who had an excellent reputation as a student, the Université Saint-Joseph de Beyrouth (USJ) privately gave her an undergraduate BA Degree in Politics.



Baby Marek - held by his godfather **Joseph Harfouche** (one of the founders of the modern Lebanese Republic, who became the head Lebanese Ambassador in London, Belgium, Portugal, Rome, Hungary and Paris) – with his mother Kasia (left) and father Leszek (right), as well as his godmother Anna Bannet (centre-right).



Leszek Rencki jointly changing the Polish Embassy in Beirut

Although WWII officially concluded on 8 May 1945, Poland was nevertheless subject to a massive internal conflict; hence, the Polish Embassy in Beirut -which acted as the embassy for 4 countries in the region - Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and especially Palestine - was preparing for its potential closure, despite the fact that it was the first Embassy in the world to recognise the national sovereignty of Lebanon as a country.

By early 1948, the internal conflict in Poland had finished, with the Communist regime taking over the country, arresting several thousand people (many soldiers who came from the West) and executing large numbers of non-Communists.

The Polish Embassy in Lebanon held a meeting for all of its staff, including Polish Ambassador Zygmunt Zawadowski (1943-1956), in order to discuss the change in Poland as well as potential changes at the embassy itself.

The new Communist government officially informed every Polish Embassy around the world that a new government was now in place, simultaneously requesting that all senior embassy staff travel to Poland to be interviewed.

The meeting lasted less than a day. It was attended by 32 members of staff, many of whom agreed to eventually resign from work at the embassy and not to go back to Poland. Astonishingly, given the new Lebanese government, the Polish Embassy at the time in Beirut continued to operate until 1956, reporting directly to the Polish government in exile in London rather than to the new communist government in Warsaw. Incredibly the new Lebanese government recognised the Polish government in exile in London as the only legal government of Poland.

The Polish Communist government's response was to order the execution of all 1st and 2nd technical level staff in the event they ever returned to Poland.

For this reason, Leszek refused to go not only to Poland but to any Communist country for as long as he lived, including Belgrade in Yugoslavia (his son Marek went to Warsaw for the first time in 1985 and was interviewed within 3 days by local Communist Intelligence).

All of the embassy staff eventually left Lebanon by 1956, mainly to the United Kingdom, France, and especially to Argentina, the USA and Canada.

Leszek Rencki stayed in at the Polish Embassy in Lebanon for 2 more years after marrying Eleonora, who graduated from the Université Saint-Joseph (USJ) in 1950 and gave birth to Marek Rencki (**author of this research**) on 8 June 1950.

Leszek Rencki emigrates to the United Kingdom

Originally, Eleonora wanted to emigrate to Argentina (where many other Poles had emigrated, including many of her friends from the university in Beirut), but ultimately, since all of Leszek's family living in Palestine emigrated to the United Kingdom in 1946 (Zygmunt) and 1947 (Maria), they both decided that they should leave Beirut and join the Rencki Family in the UK. They left Beirut 3 months after their son Marek was born and arrived in Wales, having taken a ship from Beirut all the way to the UK.

They left Lebanon in early October 1950, taking a ship all the way to Cardiff in Southern Wales. During the trip, they stopped in Alexandria in Egypt, during which time their son Marek became very ill. When they arrived in Cardiff, they went immediately to a Polish medical centre in Penley, North Wales, staying there for 6 months until Marek recovered (under the care of the Head of Polish Medicine, Dr. Michał Bereza), after which they moved in 1951 to Northwick Park, Blockley, Gloucestershire, which was host to a large number of Polish refugees after WWII, and subsequently in 1952 to 472 Finchley Road, Golders Green (London NW11).

Leszek was personally invited by Count Edward Raczyński to join the Polish Government in Exile (“Rząd Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej Na Uchodźstwie”), based at 43 Eaton Place, London SW1, when he arrived in London, but he declined.

While he did not want to be directly involved in Polish politics, Leszek would occasionally write for Polish magazines and newspapers in London and in Paris (and give lectures on politics and modern history), and also worked as:

- **Security Guard** @ Douglas House, 66 Lancaster Gate, London W2;
- **Receptionist** @ the Polish Navy Club, 13 Chelsea Embankment, London SW3;
- **Freelance Journalist** @ 68 Westbend Road, West Hampstead, London NW2;
- **Owner of Newspaper Kiosk** @ the Polish Air Force Association Club, based at 14 Collingham Garden, Earl's Court, London SW5;

and eventually **joined the Imperial College (University of London) in Kensington in 1957 as an administrator. He was made Head of Night Security in 1960** (pay was twice as much at night).

Interestingly, all 6 of Leszek's night security colleagues at the Imperial College were also Polish and had all worked as lawyers (including 2 judges) before the war. However, like many Poles who had been lawyers before the war, they were not employable as lawyers in the United Kingdom between the 1940s and 1960s.

Following her graduation in 1954 from a 2-year full-time Catering Course at Borough Polytechnic Institute (London South Bank University), Eleonora (Kasia) also worked in various places for periods ranging from several weeks to several months, including in numerous Polish shops and a Polish club called "Ognisko" in Kensington for 9 months in 1957.

Eventually - having learned to speak English very well - Kasia attended an interview for secretarial job at the night club Gaslight (4 Duke of York Street, off Jermyn Street, London, SW1Y 6LA). For 3 years (working almost every night, returning home at 3am), Kasia was regularly promoted and eventually, in 1960, at the decision of the owner Lord Ulick Browne, **Kasia became the Treasury Director (and Board Director)**, a position which she held for 5 years until 1965 when Lord Ulick Browne retired, after which she focused on running and renting out after her own rental properties.

Leszek Rencki teaching his son Marek Rencki

Like most of his Polish generational colleagues at that time, Leszek did not speak any English in 1950 (at the age of 43) - but was fluent in French, Latin and Classical Greek. As a result, Leszek took the joint decision with his wife to send his son Marek to the Lycée Français de Londres in South Kensington in 1954.

Once Marek was attending the Lycée Français, Leszek and Eleonora would speak only in French at home on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and only in Polish on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

At the age of 7, Marek was sent to a Polish Saturday school in South Kensington (no longer exists) but refused to go after attending for 3 weeks. Leszek was later shocked to discover that Marek, despite being only 7 years old, was in a class of mainly 10-11 year-olds who could all read and write in Polish.

The Polish teachers placed Marek in an older class – despite the fact he had never been to a Polish school before and could not read or write in Polish at that young age – because he was taller than most children. Leszek immediately took him out of the class and taught him Polish himself every day at home.

While technically a Roman Catholic, similar to his wife Kasia (who became an atheist after suffering together with her mother Anna for **4 years in the Ravensbruck Women's Concentration Camp** during WW2, north of Berlin), Leszek was actually an atheist and therefore did not attend Church on Sundays, unlike the entire Polish community in London.

Given his passion for history, particularly ancient history, Leszek took his son Marek on his 4th Birthday and subsequently every Sunday to a Museum in London. Given the fact that Leszek and Kasia lived in Earl's Court in the 1950s, Leszek and Marek regularly visited the following 3 major museums in Kensington:

- (1) Natural History Museum (Cromwell Road)
- (2) Science Museum (Exhibition Road)
- (3) Victoria and Albert Museum (Cromwell Road)

as well as:

- (4) National Army Museum (Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea)
- (5) British Museum (Great Russell St, Bloomsbury).

Given the fact that Leszek was quite ill in 1961-1962 and Kasia was working very hard (two shifts a day, including late nights), Marek was sent from the Lycée Francais in 1962 to the Polish Divine Mercy College (Fawley Court) in Henley-on-Thames, which he attended for 3 years until 1965.

Leszek joined the Parent's Association of Fawley Court and was appointed Deputy Head among 8 other parents. In 1964, many boys, including Marek, complained to their parents that a new priest from Poland (every priest at Fawley Court was from Poland) was homosexual and was attempting to sexually abuse the very youngest boys in the first year at the school.

Leszek organised an urgent meeting with the Management of Fawley Court at the very beginning of the year (August 1964) and forced them to immediately send the priest back to Poland, which they did.

Ironically, all the children of the parents in the Parents' Association (5 from 3rd year and 3 from 4th Year) were expelled at the end of the academic year in June 1965. Ironically, Leszek died on 10 February 1965 and did not see his son Marek expelled.

Leszek Rencki's problems with his selfish brother Zygmunt

Ironically, Leszek's brother Zygmunt - who was a doctor, even though he was fired in 1960 from the Polish Medical Centre in Penley, Wales (by the Head of Polish Medicine, Dr. Michał Bereza) for being incompetent and lazy - refused to come and see his brother Leszek who was dying in hospital because, as he informed Kasia, he and his wife Katarzyna were too busy playing bridge every day after work.

Even at weekends, he would not drive from Merthyr Tydfil to London (less than 3 hours). Thus, Zygmunt never bothered to visit his dying brother, informing Kasia that he and his wife would attend the funeral for just a couple of hours before returning back to Merthyr Tydfil that same day...for bridge that evening.

In 1971, six years after Leszek's death, when Marek was at university, Zygmunt arrived in London at Maria's Fulham house at 18 Bradbourne Street, Fulham SW6 (on his way to a holiday in France to visit his daughter Dzidzia) and called Marek for a private meeting, though he told Marek not to inform Kasia of their meeting.

He informed Marek that, in spite of the "dreadful creature Eleonora" (ironically, unlike Zygmunt's wife Katarzyna, Kasia was very cultured and educated), he would nevertheless accept Marek as a member of the Rencki Family, and that Marek should no longer spend so much time with his mother but with Zygmunt's family instead.

Upon hearing this, Marek stood up and reminded his uncle that his father Leszek had saved Zygmunt's life and found him a job in 1939 at the Polish Embassy in Belgrade. Marek also informed his uncle that he loved his mother Kasia dearly, as did his late father Leszek.

Marek further reminded Zygmunt that the latter's wife Katarzyna, along with both of his two children (Dzidzia and Roman), failed to go to university and were therefore much less educated.

Marek then slapped Zygmunt's face and walked out, refusing to ever see or speak to his uncle again (Zygmunt tried to call Marek several times).

Ironically, in 1939 Leszek personally paid for Zygmunt and his future wife Katarzyna to leave Lwów before the outbreak of WWII, arriving in Belgrade, where Leszek had obtained a medical job for Zygmunt at the Polish Embassy.

Tragically - and due to extreme selfishness - Zygmunt refused to help Leszek when the latter arrived with his family in the United Kingdom in 1950. Zygmunt was working as a medical doctor in Wales at the time and was financially comfortable; nevertheless, apart from offering Leszek only two packs of cigarettes and 50 pence in cash, Zygmunt refused to help Leszek, even though Leszek had potentially saved his and Katarzyna's lives by moving them to Belgrade in 1939.

Leszek Rencki's properties in London

Leszek and his wife moved to Earl's Court in 1954, initially renting a flat at 40 Eardley Crescent before moving to another rental flat at 7 Penywern Road in 1956, where they stayed until 1961 when they moved to their first purchased house at 11 Parsons Green Lane, Fulham, SW6.

After Kasia received compensation from the German government for her detainment for nearly 4 years in the Ravensbruck's Concentration Camp during WWII, she purchased their properties in Fulham SW6, London:

- 11 Parsons Green Lane, SW6 in 1961 - 10 rooms, all of which were later rented out
- 25 Radipole Road, SW6 in 1963 - 11 rooms, all of which were rented out
- 46 Peterborough Road, SW6 in 1967 – Kasia moved to this property with Marek, two years after the death of Leszek.

(Marek was given both rental properties by Kasia in 2001 – 11 Parsons Green Lane and 25 Radipole Road. Marek moved to and lived in the latter for many years).

Leszek Rencki's death in 1965

Leszek became physically handicapped when he was only 6 years old in 1913 (after injuring his right leg) and suffered serious health problems several times - especially in Kensington (Brompton Road / Cranley Gardens) when his car was hit and heavily damaged in 1958 (by a female driver who was arrested by the Police).

He collapsed in late 1964 (end of October) and was taken to the Brompton Hospital in South Kensington, where he spent 4 months in bed. He had previously been quite a heavy smoker, and even though he had given up smoking 6 months earlier in August 1964, he had nevertheless contracted lung cancer.

Kasia visited him every day (Marek saw him at weekends) at Brompton Hospital, whilst his sister Maria came occasionally every second week, and her ex-husband, Doctor Józef Dąbrowski, came every day.

Tragically, Leszek became completely unresponsive by Christmas 1964 and remained unconscious the last 6 weeks before he died on Wednesday 10 February 1965 at the age of 57.

Over 400 people attended Leszek's funeral on Wednesday 17 February 1965, at which there were four major speakers:

1. **General Władysław Anders**, who gave a praiseworthy speech about Leszek;
2. **Sir Patrick Linstead**, the Vice-Chancellor of the Imperial College (London University), Leszek's boss;
3. **Cardinal Władysław Rubin**, a Polish Cardinal from Rome who met Leszek in Beirut;
4. **Stanisław Frenkiel**, a famous Polish Artist who knew Leszek during his time in Beirut (and also a teacher at Wimbledon College who had Marek accepted to the school).

(Linstead died in 1966, Anders in 1970, Rubin in 1990 and Frenkiel in 2001)

All were present at the funeral at the Polish Church of St. Andrew Bobola in Shepperd's Bush, London W12 followed by Kensal Green Cemetery, North Kensington, London W10.

Leszek is buried with Kasia and his mother Paula (wife of Leszek's father, Professor Roman Rencki), who died on 22 October 1960 in London - born Paula Broda on 27 May 1871 in Lwów - in Kensal Green Cemetery, joint Grave 3114xx.

Leszek's wife Kasia was 40 years old and his son Marek was 14 1/2 years old when Leszek died prematurely at the age of 57.



Kasia and speaker Cardinal Wladyslaw Rubin at Leszek's funeral.



Left-right: Prof. Roman Rencki, Zygmunt (son), Paula (wife), Maria (daughter), Leszek (son). Centre – Jacek (grandson).

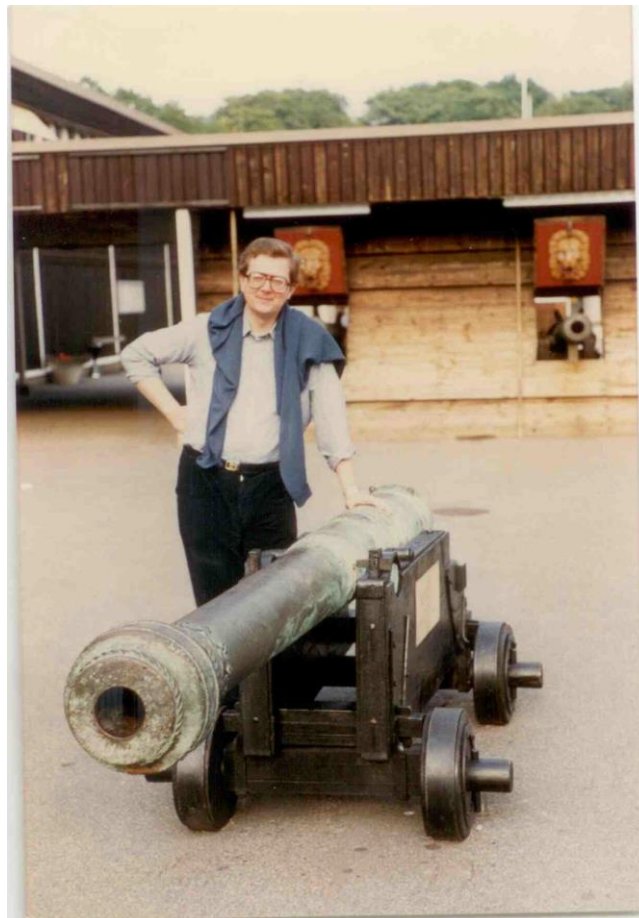
Marek Rencki FRAI was responsible for creating this website on his father Leszek Rencki as well as the website on his grandfather, Professor Roman Rencki.

Marek Rencki FRAI

**Founder & Director, Anglo-Polish Bankers Club (SKI Club)
Founder & Director, Polish Heritage Society UK (PHS)
Director, Polish Cultural Foundation Ltd**

**Patron, Conservative Party
Patron, Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC)
Fellow Royal Anthropological Institute (FRAI)**

Owner, Rencki Map Collection (2,235 Maps of Poland as of 26 March 2018) - the 2nd largest Polish map collection in the World after the collection of the Zamek Królewski, the largest museum in Warsaw.



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