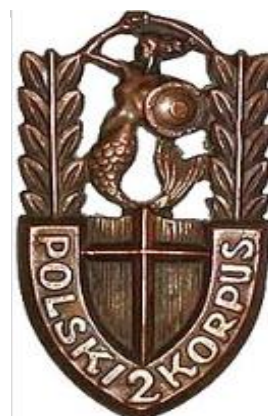
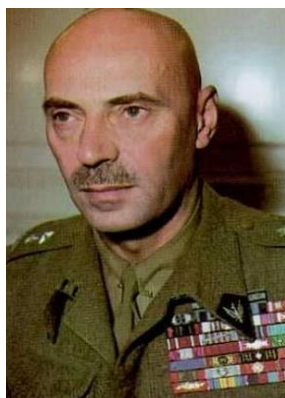


**THE ROAD TO ROME IS OPEN – 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE BATTLE OF MONTE CASSINO 18.05.1944**

**DROGA NA RZYM OTWARTA – 80 ROCZNICA BITWY
O MONTE CASSINO 18.05.1944**



https://youtu.be/rmXov_qk9Yk (in English 1.43 min)

<https://youtu.be/t-rDCBjLpQM> (in Polish) 1.38 min)

Messages from HE Polish Ambassador to Italy, Anna Maria Anders,
daughter of General Władysław Anders, recorded in Rome 2nd of May 2024

The proclamation of the commander of the 8th Army, General Oliver Leese, delivered to the soldiers of the 2nd Corps as a field order an hour before the battle:

Soldiers! Great events await us.

Hitler's Germany is surrounded by the Allies: in the East, the victorious Russian troops are advancing, in the West, British and American troops are concentrated for invasion.

To the South, the Eighth and Fifth Armies are ready to strike.

Side by side with our French and American allies, we will break through the enemy's defense lines, launching our offensive to the North.

Our plan has been developed in every detail, and the attack was carried out with large forces with a large number of tanks and guns, supported by powerful American and British air forces.

The nations of the Allied Countries will follow the actions of the 8th Army.

We will refer to our Great Traditions and announce to them the Great News about our deeds worthy of Our Army.

We welcome with joy those Divisions that will fight for the first time in the ranks of the VIII Army.

We especially appeal to the Polish Corps, which is currently fighting with us to regain its beloved homeland.

We appeal to all of you.

I want to see the enthusiasm to fight in your eyes. To Action.

Let everyone do their duty in battle, and victory will be ours!

GOD BLESS

In Italy, May, 1944

Odezwa dowódcy 8 Armii gen. Oliwera Leese'a doręczona żołnierzom 2 Korpusu jako rozkaz polowy na godzinę przed bitwą:

Żołnierze! Oczekują nas wielkie wydarzenia.

Niemcy Hitlerowskie są okrążone przez Sprzymierzonych: na wschodzie zwycięskie wojska rosyjskie posuwają się naprzód, na zachodzie wojska Brytyjskie i Amerykańskie są skoncentrowane do inwazji.

Na południu Ósma i Piąta Armia są gotowe do uderzenia.

Ramię przy ramieniu z naszymi sprzymierzeńcami Francuzami i Amerykanami przełamiemy nieprzyjacielskie linie obronne rozpoczynając naszą ofensywę na Północ.

Plan nasz jest opracowany w każdym szczególe, a natarcie wykonane wielkimi siłami z dużą ilością czołgów i dział, wsparte potężnym lotnictwem Amerykańskim i Własnym.

Społeczeństwa Narodów Sprzymierzonych będą śledzić działania VIII Armii.

Nawiążemy do naszych Wielkich Tradycji i ogłosimy im Wielką Nowinę o naszych czynach - godnych Naszej Armii.

Witamy z radością te Dywizje, które Walczyć będą po raz pierwszy w szeregach VIII Armii.

Zwracamy się specjalnie do Polskiego Korpusu, który walczy obecnie wspólnie z nami, dla odzyskania swej ukochanej Ojczyzny.

Zwracamy się do was wszystkich .

Chcę widzieć w waszych oczach zapał do boju. Do Czynu.

Niech każdy wykona swój obowiązek, w boju, a zwycięstwo Będzie Nasze!

SZCZĘŚĆ BOŻE

We Włoszech, Maj, 1944



Commander of the 2nd Polish Corps, General Władysław Anders:

“The moment of the battle has come. We have been waiting for a long time for retaliation and revenge against our eternal enemy.

British, Canadian and New Zealand divisions will fight alongside us, as will the French, Italian and Indian divisions.

The task assigned to us will make the name of the Polish soldier famous throughout the world. The thoughts and hearts of the entire nation will be with us in these moments. With faith in the justice of Divine Providence, we move forward following in our hearts: God, Honour and Homeland.”



Dowódca 2 Polskiego Korpusu gen. Władysław Anders:

„Nadeszła chwila bitwy. Długo czekaliśmy na odwet i zemstę nad odwiecznym naszym wrogiem.

Obok nas walczyć będą dywizje brytyjskie, amerykańskie, kanadyjskie, nowozelandzkie, walczyć będą Francuzi, Włosi oraz dywizje hinduskie.

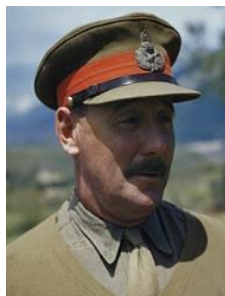
Zadanie, które nam przypadło, rozśławi na cały świat imię żołnierza polskiego.

W chwilach tych będą z nami myśli i serca całego narodu.

Z wiarą w sprawiedliwość Opatrzności Boskiej idziemy naprzód za Świątym hasłem w sercach naszych: Bóg, Honor i Ojczyzna.”



General Anders



General Oliver Leese



Marshall Alan Brooke



General Cyril Freyberg



General Alexander

Monte Cassino – The Perspective of 80 years



The damaged Benedictine abbey at Monte Cassino

The Polish and British flags flying over Monte Cassino

General Anders congratulates his troops

Communique of the headquarters of the 2nd Polish Corps of May 18, 1944:

"During the afternoon of May 17 and the night of May 17-18, the units of the 2nd Polish Corps completely broke the defense of the Monte Cassino hill complex.

In the area of Colle S. Angelo and in the area of ridges 593, 569, a number of fierce counter-attacks were repelled.

British and American artillery and intrepid air forces cooperated so effectively with us in the fight.

The entire Polish nation is proud of you, soldiers, all Polish hearts all over the world are beating with joy today. I pay tribute to our fallen heroes, whose souls stand before the Supreme Judge today, and whose bodies, in eternal memory of this deed, will rest in the Polish cemetery under the Monte Cassino monastery.

I express my highest appreciation to soldiers of all ranks for their heroism and tireless efforts in this battle for the glory of the Homeland.

Monte Cassino, on May 20th, 1944."

Komunikat sztabu 2 Polskiego Korpusu z dnia 18 maja 1944 roku:

„W ciągu popołudnia dnia 17 maja oraz nocy z 17 na 18 oddziały 2 Polskiego Korpusu przełamały całkowicie obronę kompleksu wzgórz Monte Cassino.

W rejonie Colle S. Angelo i w rejonie grzbietu 593, 569 odparto szereg zaciekłych przeciwnatarć. Brytyjska i Amerykańska artyleria i nieustraszone lotnictwo tak skutecznie współdziałały z nami w walce.

Cały naród polski dumny jest z was, żołnierze, wszystkie serca polskie na całym świecie biją dziś radośnie. Oddaję hołd poległym naszym bohaterom, których dusze stoją dziś przed Najwyższym Sędzią, a których ciała ku wiecznej pamięci tego czynu spoczną na cmentarzu polskim pod klasztorem Monte Cassino.

Wyrażam moje najwyższe uznanie żołnierzom wszystkich stopni za ich bohaterstwo i niestrudzone wysiłki w tym boju ku chwale Ojczyzny.

Monte Cassino, dnia 20 maja 1944 roku."

Monte Cassino – The Perspective of 80 years



A Polish *Sherman* tank destroyed in the battle for Monte Cassino

A stretcher party on Monte Cassino

Marshal Alan Brooke - Chief of Staff of the Imperial Forces

Dispatches to General Anders after the capture of Monte Cassino:

"Warm congratulations on the success of the Polish troops and wishing you further happiness."

Marszałek Alan Brooke - Szef Sztabu Wojsk Imperialnych

Depesze do generała Andersa po zdobyciu Monte Cassino:

„Serdeczne powinszowania z powodu sukcesu polskich wojsk i życzenia dalszego szczęścia”

General Oliver Leese Commander of the 8th Army:

"I am grateful for the memory of the cordial relations that united us throughout the planning and the conduct of the battle, crowned with such great success." Always devoted

General Oliver Leese Dowódca VIII Armii:

Wdzięcznej pamięci serdeczne stosunki, które łączyły nas przez cały czas planowania i prowadzenia bitwy, uwieńczonej tak wielkim sukcesem”. Zawsze oddany

General William Holmes Commander of the 9th Army

“A clean job! I knew you would do it!”

Generał William Holmes Dowódca 9 Armii

„Czysta robota! Wiedziałem że to zrobicie!”

General Cyril Freyberg, Commander of the New Zealand Division

"Three cheers in honour of the Poles! Warmest congratulations on your great success."

Generał Freyberg Dowódca Dywizji Nowozelandzkiej).

„Trzykrotny okrzyk na cześć Polaków! Najserdeczniejsze gratulacje z okazji Waszego wielkiego sukcesu”.

Monte Cassino – The Perspective of 80 years



A Polish machine-gun position manned by the crew of a knocked-out *Sherman* tank on the slopes of Monte Cassino



Excerpts from the pastoral letter of Field Bishop Józef F. Gawlina:

"Greetings and blessings in the Lord to the commanders and soldiers of the 2nd Corps on the battlefield of Cassino. God gave victory. The Polish banner flies at Monte Cassino. Remember those who died in this battle, and in honour of the living, shout three times: Live long and prosper!"

Fragmenty listu pasterskiego biskupa polowego Józefa F. Gawliny:

„Dowódcy i żołnierzom 2 Korpusu na polu bitwy pod Cassino pozdrowienie i błogosławieństwo w Panu. Bóg dał zwycięstwo. Na Monte Cassino powiewa sztandar Polski. Pamięć poległych w tej bitwie, a na cześć żywych wzniesie trzykrotny okrzyk: Niech żyją!”

General Harold Alexander, commander of the Allied Forces in Italy at the ceremony to decorate General Anders with the Order of the Bath:

"My King, when awarding the Order of the Bath to General Anders, awarded it to the Commander of the 2nd Corps, for his great command and as an expression of the extraordinary bravery, generosity, and sacrifice of Polish soldiers in the Battle of Cassino. It was a famous day for Poland when you captured this great fortress, which the Germans themselves considered impossible to seize. This was the first great test you faced in the fight for a European fortress. I tell you today, honestly and openly, this is not just a great start, it is an indication of the future. Soldiers of the 2nd Polish Corps! If I could choose any soldiers to have under my command, I would choose you, the Poles. I salute you!" General Harold Alexander, commander of the Allied Forces in Italy

Generał Harold Alexander – dowódca Wojsk Sprzymierzonych we Włoszech:

podczas dekoracji generała Andersa Orderem Łaźni. „Mój Król, nadając Order Łaźni generałowi Andersowi, nadał go Dowódcy 2 Korpusu, za jego wspaniałe dowództwo i jako wyraz niezwykłego męstwa, ofiarności i poświęcenia żołnierza polskiego w bitwie o Cassino. Był to wielki dzień sławy dla Polski, kiedyście zdobyli tę warowną fortecę, którą sami Niemcy uważali za niemożliwą do zdobycia. Była to pierwsza wielka próba, którą przeszliście w walce o fortecę europejską. Nie jest to tylko wspaniały początek, jest to wskazanie na przyszłość. To mogę wam szczerze i otwarcie dziś powiedzieć. Żołnierze 2 Polskiego Korpusu! Jeżeli by mi dano do wyboru między jakimkolwiek żołnierzami, których chciałabym mieć pod swoim dowództwem, wybrałbym Was, Polaków. Oddaję Wam Cześć!" General Harold Alexander, commander of the Allied Forces in Italy

Monte Cassino – The Perspective of 80 years



Polish troops from Second Corps attacking Monte Cassino



Polish Cemetery at Monte Cassino, the Second Corps sustained very heavy losses

The Second Polish Corps and General Władysław Anders*

Polish Second Corps was formally formed in July 1943 in Iraq and it was decided that it would join the Allied order of battle in Italy as part of British Eighth Army.

It consisted of two infantry divisions, with two brigades apiece, an armoured brigade and full supporting units, including a company of commandos. In mid-December 1943, the process of moving Second Corps to Italy began. The transfer was carried out by the British with the help of a number of Polish ships, the last troops arriving in April 1944. In order to avoid losing the whole Corps, its transit to Italy had been carried out using different routes and ports and in smaller convoys, hence the time involved. However, the whole operation went off without a hitch.

After re-grouping, the Corps's units began to move out into their operational areas. The 3rd Division, which had been the first to arrive in Italy, took over from a British unit on the Sangro River along a 40 km (25 mile) front as early as the 2nd of February. The 5th Division did likewise on the 8th of March, replacing a French Moroccan division along a 13 km (8 mile) front. The Corps joined the line at the juncture of the American Fifth and the British Eighth Armies with the task of holding a string of hills and ensuring communications between the two armies. The weather at that time of year did not help, there were still snowdrifts on the ground, the mountain roads were well nigh impassable and operations were restricted to patrolling, with a major focus on training, road-clearance and improving defensive positions. In mid-April the Corps was relieved.

In Italy, things were not going as well as expected. The road to Rome was blocked by the Gustav Line, which in its central sector contained a mountain range with the 7th century Benedictine monastery of Monte Cassino atop one of its high points.

After a number of failed assaults on Monte Cassino, it fell to the British Eighth Army to finish the task. General Sir Oliver Leese, GOC Eighth Army, asked General Anders if the Polish Corps would be willing to take up the challenge. After a few moments' thought, Anders agreed, knowing the very great importance of his decision for the Polish cause.

* Note: *"First to Fight – Poland's Contribution to the Allied Victory in WWII"*

Edited by Dr Marek Stela-Sawicki, Jarek Garliński and Stefan Mucha. ISBN-978-0-9557824-4-2

The General's reply followed the guidelines for using the Polish Armed Forces abroad. They clearly could not play a major role, nor influence the final outcome, but the Poles needed a success, if only to refute Stalin and Soviet accusations of passivity, or worse.

General Anders was only too conscious that his two divisions, the 3rd Carpathian and the 5th Eastern Lands, each had only two undermanned brigades each and major losses could prevent the Corps playing any further part in the fighting. Thus, the assault needed to be planned with precision. The Germans had established extensive defences and had brought in two additional battalions.

Anders decided to attack the two neighbouring hilltops, Hill 593 and San Angelo. The 3rd Division would attack Hill 593 and the 5th Division, San Angelo. Every available man was used leaving no reserves. The 11th of May 1944 was chosen to launch the attack and the Polish divisions moved forward at 1.00 am following a general allied bombardment. After very heavy fighting, the initial assault failed and the Poles retired on the 13th having none the less managed to tie down part of the enemy's forces, thus allowing adjacent allied units to advance.

Meanwhile General Leese started to move British XIII Corps along the valley of the river Liri, with the aim of engaging part of the enemy's reserves and artillery fire. If closely co-ordinated with Second Corps, this move would give the Poles a chance to break through. On the 17th and the 18th, the Poles stuck tenaciously to their task and the Germans began to fall back. Finally, at 10.20 am on the 18th, a patrol of the 12th Uhlan Regiment raised the Polish flag over the ruins of the monastery.

The Second Corps sustained heavy losses: the 3rd Carpathian Rifle Division had lost 1,571 men, of whom over 20% were killed; the 5th Eastern Lands Division had lost even more at 2,174, of whom 22% were killed. 72 officers were killed, including a brigade commander and two battalion commanders, and 209 were wounded. However, the military and propaganda success of the operation was considerable. News of it soon reached occupied Poland where it was greeted with great pride. In later years, the Battle of Monte Cassino became a symbolic Polish feat of arms and when General Anders died in 1970, he was, at his own request, buried in the Polish war cemetery there.

After the heavy fighting, the Poles needed time to recuperate and repair their equipment. Unfortunately, although the Corps had no reserves of manpower, the theatre commander, Field Marshal Sir Harold Alexander, was unconvinced that Poles who had been forcibly conscripted into the Wehrmacht and who were now allied prisoners, could fill the gaps. He wanted to turn the Corps into a single infantry division with supporting armoured units. General Anders strongly opposed this idea and stuck to his guns, believing that he needed to be able to operate independently. Towards the end of May, Second Corps received new orders.

The Indian divisions which had hitherto been fighting on the Adriatic sector needed to be moved to the central sector and the Poles were to replace them. On the 15th of June, the move began and two days later General Anders assumed command of the whole sector in the area of Pescara, with not only his own corps under command, but also two British artillery regiments, an armoured regiment, a great number of engineer, signals and anti-aircraft units, not to mention a whole Italian corps. The Italians were at full strength, but poorly equipped, especially in the transport department. The initial mission was to gain control of a long stretch of the road linking Pescara to L'Aquila. However, before this could be done, there was a change of plan. The new orders called for a pursuit of the retreating Germans and a dash to seize the port of Ancona, which was vital to the Allies who had moved far to the north of the southern ports of Taranto, Bari and Naples. Now they needed the ports of Ancona on the Adriatic and Leghorn (Livorno) on the other side of the Italian peninsula.

The change in its orders did not come at the best of times for the Corps, since it still needed rest and time for re-organisation and it also lacked adequate transport to move men and supplies. There was a problem too with sappers, who had been moved to the Rome sector, and the terrain to be crossed was difficult, the retreating Germans having blown all the bridges and mined the roads. However, progress was made and after about a fortnight's contested advance, the river Musone was reached on the 1st of July. After the river was crossed, the eight-day battle for Loreto began. Success in this operation allowed suitable positions to be taken for an attack on Ancona. The attack went in early on the 17th of July and, after a day's fighting, success was within reach. Only the Polish 6th Rifle Brigade, having some difficult terrain to cross including the river Musone, was late in coming in from the north, thus allowing the Germans to withdraw part of their forces. In the afternoon of the 18th, the Carpathian Uhlan Regiment entered Ancona, whose port had been undamaged. Almost 3,000 Germans were taken prisoner and a great deal of equipment fell into allied hands. However, Polish losses had been quite considerable: 34 officers and 150 other ranks had been killed and a further 116 officers and 1,850 other ranks wounded. After the capture of Ancona, Second Corps had a moment of respite. However, it was soon faced with a number of new tasks.

The Allies now decided to break through the German Gothic Line, and the Poles were tasked with conducting operations on the Adriatic coast, giving the impression that the main thrust would come there, when in fact it would come nearer Florence.

The central thrust failed and it was decided to shift the axis of advance to the Adriatic side of the country, where the terrain was flatter and with the port of Ancona providing a gateway for re-supply. Second Corps's task now changed to pushing the Germans back over the river Metauro and preparing the ground for an advance by the British and the Canadians. Between the 19th and the 22nd of August, the mission was accomplished to the accompaniment of some heavy fighting.

The Corps now had to reach the river Foglia, by-pass to the west German defensive positions at Pesaro and capture the high ground to the north-west of the city. Fighting began on the 23rd of August and ended on the 2nd of September, when the Gothic Line was finally breached and Second Corps ended its three-month campaign fighting the Germans along the Adriatic. It had lost 288 officers and 3,303 other ranks killed or wounded.

After a good rest, the Polish Corps was moved to the western flank of Eighth Army, to a mountainous and trackless area where it was to advance along the axis Santa Sofia-Galatea-Forli. The fighting was hard, but progress was steady and by the middle of December Eighth Army had reached the river Senio and Second Corps had taken Faeza. The losses, however, were mounting: 43 officers and 627 other ranks had been killed, 184 officers and 2,630 other ranks wounded, with 33 men missing.

News of the decisions taken at the Yalta Conference in February 1945 was received badly by Second Corps, most of whose men came from those parts of pre-war Poland, which had now been formally absorbed into the USSR with Western blessing.

In the spring, the Allies began a new offensive in Italy with Second Corps serving as part of Eighth Army. Owing to his new responsibilities as Acting Supreme Commander, General Anders was now in London, but on the 6th of April, he arrived to lead the Corps in its final combat operations. It had been reinforced with a British armoured brigade and a number of other units and, together with its two new infantry brigades, formed from Poles who had been POWs, was now an extremely powerful formation. The offensive began on the 9th of April and, after heavy fighting, the Corps's lead battalion entered Bologna on the 21st. With their resistance weakening all along the line, the Germans surrendered in Italy on the 28th. Second Corps's successful war was over.



A Polish tank drives through liberated Ancona to the cheers of the townsfolk

King George VI and General Anders

April 1945, Polish troops in liberated Bologna

National Memorial Arboretum

19th September 2009



HRH The Duke of Kent and Polish Ambassador



THE POLISH CARPATHIAN RIFLE BRIGADE

**IN 1940, POLISH SOLDIERS REACHING SYRIA,
VIA ROMANIA, HUNGARY AND TURKEY,
FORMED THE CARPATHIAN RIFLE BRIGADE.
IN 1941, THE 5,000-STRONG BRIGADE UNDER
GENERAL KOPANSKI JOINED BRITISH FORCES IN LIBYA.
THE BRIGADE TOOK PART IN THE DEFENCE OF
BESIEGED TOBRUK IN THAT YEAR. IT THEN BROKE
THROUGH ENEMY POSITIONS AT GAZALA.
THIS SUCCESS HELPED THE BRITISH 8TH ARMY
TO RENEW ITS OFFENSIVE AGAINST ROMMEL'S
AFRIKA KORPS AND HIS ITALIAN ALLIES.
THE IMPACT MADE BY POLISH SOLDIERS DURING
THESE BATTLES EARNED THEM THE RIGHT
TO BE HONOURED AS 'THE RATS OF TOBRUK'.**



POLISH SECOND CORPS

**AFTER THE POLISH-SOVIET AGREEMENT OF 1941,
LEADING TO THE CONDITIONAL RELEASE OF POLISH
PRISONERS HELD IN THE SOVIET UNION, A POLISH
ARMY WAS FORMED IN THE USSR FROM THESE
PRISONERS. OUT OF OVER 1,500,000 DEPORTEES,
ONLY 114,000 LEFT FOR IRAN; 70,000 WERE
SOLDIERS WHO FORMED THE SECOND CORPS UNDER
GENERAL ANDERS - THE LARGEST POLISH FORMATION
IN THE WEST. ITS TWO DIVISIONS AND ARMoured
BRIGADE SUBSEQUENTLY TOOK PART IN THE ITALIAN
CAMPAIGN, CAPTURING MONTE CASSINO, OPENING
THE ROAD TO ROME AND LATER TAKING ANCONA
AND BOLOGNA. THE POLISH SECOND CORPS LOST
3,978 MEN IN THE ITALIAN CAMPAIGN.**



Two out of sixteen memorial plaques at the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas, surrounding the Polish Armed Forces Memorial as unveiled by HRH Duke of Kent and the Polish Ambassador in September 2009. The Polish contribution to the defeat of Germany in the Second World War should never be forgotten.



London, May 3rd, 2024

Dear Friends,

In 2014, 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 that our 11th Military History Conference is again organised with the best of speakers **on October 19th 2024 in POSK** in London. Since 2014 the Polish Heritage Society has organised the following Military History Conferences:

1. Polish Military Leadership in WWII (20th - 21st June 2014)
2. The Polish Section of SOE and Poland's "*Silent and Unseen*" or the "*Cichociemni*" (11th June 2016)
3. Major General Stanisław Maczek DSO, an Assessment of Leadership and Command 1938-1945 (8th October 2016)
4. The Polish Underground State during WWII (3rd June 2017)
5. The Battle of Britain – The Polish Story (7th October 2017)
6. The Military Road to Polish Independence 1914-1921 (16th June 2018)
7. Revisiting the September Campaign 1939, 80 Years Later (12th October 2019)
8. Back in the Fight: The Polish Armed Forces in Norway and France 1940 (6th November 2021)
9. Building the Polish Army in the Middle East 1941-1943 (8th October 2022)
10. The Polish II Corps in the Italian Campaign 1944-1945 (7th October 2023)
11. **The Warsaw Uprising: The Perspective of 80 Years (at POSK 19th October 2024)**

Conference Papers and Proceedings have been now published for the first six conferences and have been well received. The Polish Armed Forces wartime spirit and sacrifice deserves to be remembered forever. The Organizing Committee of this conference wish to thank the Polish Embassy and many individuals and organisations for their help, participation and support in organising this conference (*Saturday 19th October, POSK, Sala Malinowa, 09:30 AM*).

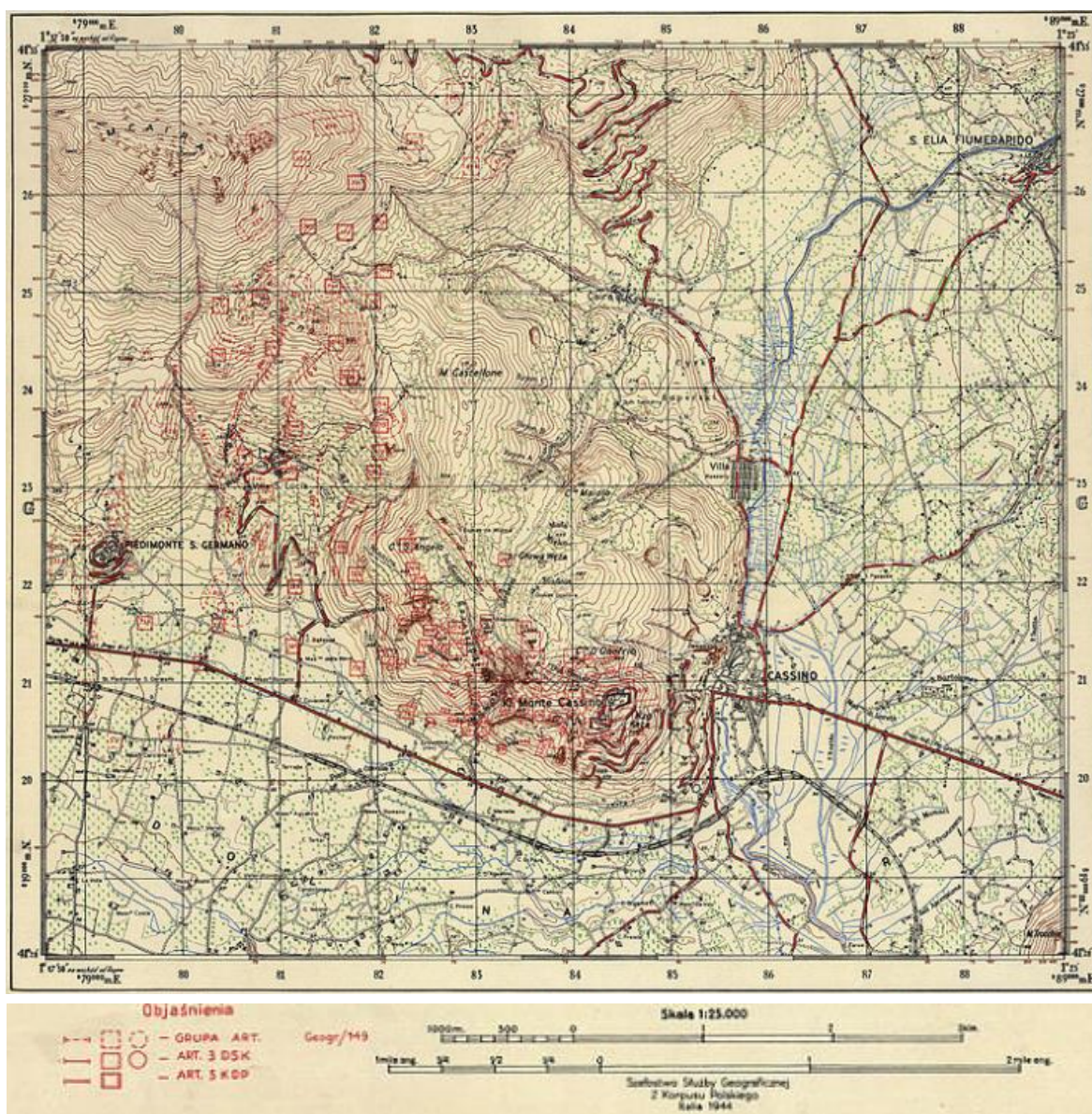
Dr Marek Stella-Sawicki MBE KM KCSG

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

Saturday, 4th of May at Palace of Westminster and Sunday 5th May at Westminster Cathedral

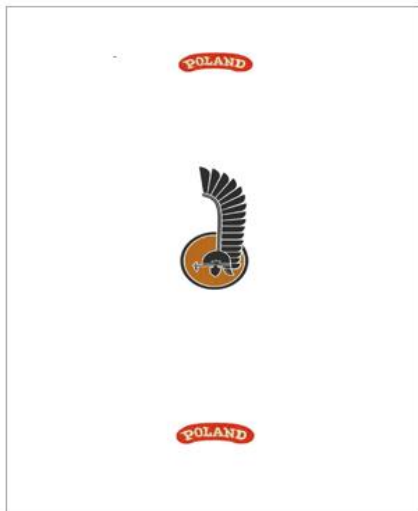
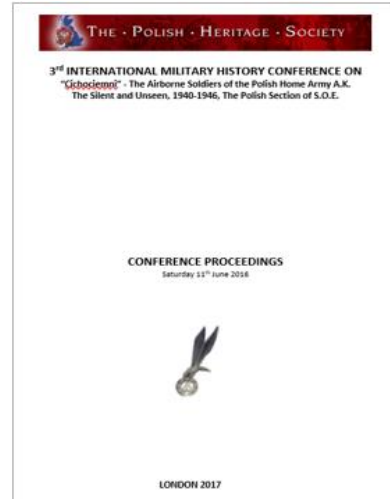


CASSINO-PIEDIMONTE 1:25,000

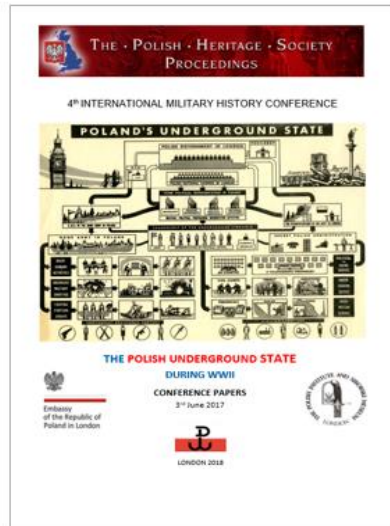


The Battle for Monte Cassino, despite its success, had come at a huge cost. There were over 55,000 casualties for the Allied troops in comparison to only 20,000 German casualties. The 2nd Polish Corps sustained heavy losses: the 3rd Carpathian Rifle Division had lost 1,571 men, of whom over 20% were killed; the 5th Eastern Lands Division had lost even more at 2,174, of whom 22% were killed. 72 officers were killed, including a brigade commander and two battalion commanders, and 209 men were wounded. An next attack on Ancona went in early on the 17th of July and, after a day's fighting, success was within reach. Only the Polish 6th Rifle Brigade, having some difficult terrain to cross including the river Musone, was late in coming in from the north, thus allowing the Germans to withdraw part of their forces. In the afternoon of the 18th, the Carpathian Uhlan Regiment entered Ancona, whose port had been undamaged. Almost 3,000 Germans were taken prisoner and a great deal of equipment fell into allied hands. However, Polish losses had been quite considerable: 34 officers and 150 other ranks had been killed and a further 116 officers and 1,850 other ranks wounded. The 23rd of August fight ended on the 2nd of September, when the Gothic Line was finally breached and Second Corps ended its three-month campaign fighting the Germans along the Adriatic. It had lost 288 officers and 3,303 other ranks killed or wounded. Second Corps had taken Faenza. The losses, however, were mounting: 43 officers and 627 other ranks had been killed, 184 officers and 2,630 other ranks wounded, with 33 men missing.

Monte Cassino – The Perspective of 80 years



NMA Alrewas 2009



BCMHS



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The Polish Heritage Society UK official website: <http://www.polishheritage.co.uk>

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