

INSTITUTE OF POLISH MILITARY HISTORY 2026/2027

Polish Heritage Society UK

Celebrating the 15th Anniversary



The Polish Heritage Society in the United Kingdom, in short PHS UK, was formed to promote greater community awareness amongst present and future generations of United Kingdom citizens of Polish origin of the historical links between the two countries and the presence of acts of gratitude and remembrance across Great Britain.



The new academic year is fast approaching, and here at the IPMH we are preparing an exciting programme of lectures, spanning several hundred years of Polish history.

As always, the new year will bring new speakers and new topics, although we will also be welcoming back some old friends. What will never change however, is our commitment to quality and independence in everything we do. We shall continue to use the internet to reach those interested in Polish military history, wherever they may be, and expand our network of visiting professors and our research interests. As a discipline, we know that history is not static. As previously closed archives open and new facts emerge, our view of the past is constantly being challenged. We welcome this, and that is why I would like to thank our colleagues and friends, who have offered their help and continued co-operation.

Dr Stas Librowski

Dean of IPMH UK Faculty of Military History





*Polish Heritage Society UK is delighted to announce that **Major General Karol John Drewienkiewicz CB CMG or General "DZ"**, has accepted the position of President of the Polish Heritage Society UK.*

The Polish Heritage Society UK has worked closely and very successfully with General Drewienkiewicz in the past.

We welcome his valued contribution to our Society.



Dr Mark Stella-Sawicki

MBE KM KCSG

Chairman
Polish Heritage Society UK
Institute of Polish Military History UK



The Polish Heritage Society UK: www.polishheritage.co.uk



PHS UK

IPMH UK

Structure of PHS

The PHS is a not-for-profit society of volunteers drawn together to achieve the objects of the Society.

Polish Heritage Society (UK) Limited was incorporated as a limited liability company on 04 February 2011 (Registered Number 07517923, England and Wales) and was registered as a charity by the Charity Commission (Registered Number 1143791) on 13 September 2011.

All positions are held on a voluntary and honorary basis.

PHS activities are entirely dependent on the goodwill of volunteers whose efforts are supported by public donations from companies and private individuals.



AUTUMN 2026 – SPRING 2027

NEW PROGRAMME

2026/2027 IPMH lecturers:

Simon Rees, Antonia Senior,

General David Ząbecki, Sir Dermot Turing,

Jane Rogoyska,

Dr Andrzej Suchcitz,

Professor Richard Butterwick-Pawlikowski

AUTUMN 2026 – SPRING 2027, NEW PROGRAMME

1. Betrayal of Poland – Polish Testimonies of War

24th October 2026

Simon Rees

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/betrayal-of-poland-polish-testimonies-of-war-tickets-1998505615093?aff=oddttdtcreator>



Betrayal of Poland is the first major English-language compendium of Polish testimonies detailing the Second World War. It includes the recollections of those who fought at the Battle of Monte Cassino; took part in the Warsaw Uprising; and flew bombing missions over the Third Reich. Many also experienced the misery of being deported from eastern Poland into Stalin's Soviet Union, while two others witnessed the horrors of Auschwitz: one from behind the wire and the other outside it. In this talk, Simon Rees explores the wartime experiences of four interviewees and discusses how they survived the maelstrom.

About the Author: Simon Rees has an MA in social and cultural history and worked as a journalist/freelance writer for 25 years. He has written regularly for numerous history- and military-focussed publications and his connections with the British-Polish community stretches back to the early 2000s when he started researching the Polish-Bolshevik War of 1920.

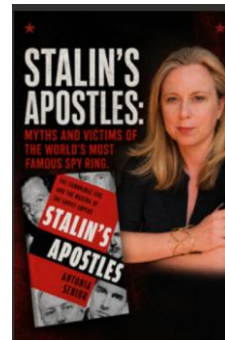


2. STALIN'S APOSTLES: myth and victims of the world's most famous spy ring

14 November 2026

Antonia Senior

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/stalins-apostles-myths-and-victims-of-the-worlds-most-famous-spy-ring-tickets-1998556014840?aff=oddtcreator>



For seventeen years, five British men who met at Cambridge University spied for the Soviet Union. The Cambridge Five had access to the greatest secrets of the UK, the US and their allies. From Cabinet minutes to the atomic weapons programme, from Bletchley Park to the personal correspondence between Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill, the secrets they offered up to Stalin were priceless. But what did Stalin want from his greatest intelligence assets? How did they help him in his relentless quest to bring his vision of Utopia to a reluctant Europe? How did the Cambridge Five betray Poland and the Baltic States, as well as their own country, their friends and the world that created them? *Stalin's Apostles* was described in *The Times* as: 'A history of the Cambridge spies that is as good as anything I have read...magnificent.'

About the author: Antonia Senior is a writer, critic and journalist. She has been the historical fiction reviewer at *The Times* for the past 14 years. She is a former deputy Business Editor and Leader Writer at the same paper. On becoming freelance, Antonia published three novels, two of which are set during the English Civil Wars. She podcasts as co-host of *The History Book Buffs*, which reviews history books. Antonia's first work of non-fiction is *Stalin's Apostles: The Cambridge Five and the Making of the Soviet Empire*, which was a finalist in the Orwell Prize for Political Writing in 2026. The book considers the role of the most famous spy ring in history in advancing Stalin's strategic aims.



3. The Polish Knight Zawisza the Black

28th November 2026

General David Ząbecki (US Army Artillery Retired)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1998589347539?aff=oddtcreator>



A presentation of Zawisza and the fascinating parallels between him and England's William Marshall. Even though they lived some 200 years apart, they were their country's greatest medieval knights, and they lived and operated in that social and political era known as "*Age of Chivalry*." Aside from their individual prowess in the profession of arms, both played major diplomatic and political roles in their country's histories, and both had command roles in two of their country's major battles—Grunwald (1410) and the Battle of Lincoln (1217). At the conclusion of the lecture, General Ząbecki will discuss how the two are regarded in history and also in modern popular and historical fiction, for example Sienkiewicz's *The Knights of the Cross*.

The main thrust of this lecture will be to consider Zawisza as not only a major figure of Polish history, but also to place him squarely in the context of broader European history.

In 2003 General Ząbecki was seconded to the U.S. State Department as the "*Senior Security Advisor on the U.S. Coordinating and Monitoring Mission in Israel*," popularly known as the Roadmap to Peace in the Middle East.



4. German Investigations into Enigma Security

5th December 2026

Sir Dermot Turing



When German forces overran Poland in 1939, what did they learn of the Polish successes in breaking the now-famous Enigma cipher? How did what they learned fit in with their understanding of Enigma's inherent security? What action did they take? And was the Enigma secret still safe? Sir Dermot Turing investigates these questions, based on archival material drawn from across Europe.

Dermot Turing is the award-winning author of *X, Y and Z – the real story of how Enigma was broken* and *Enigma Traitors*, which cover the Polish and German aspects of the Enigma story. He is also a regular speaker at historical and other events. He began writing in 2014 after a career in law. Dermot worked for the Government Legal Service and then the international law firm Clifford Chance, where he was a partner until 2014. His specialism was financial sector regulation, financial market infrastructure and bank failures. As well as writing and speaking, Dermot is a trustee of The National Museum of Computing and a Visiting Fellow at Kellogg College, Oxford.

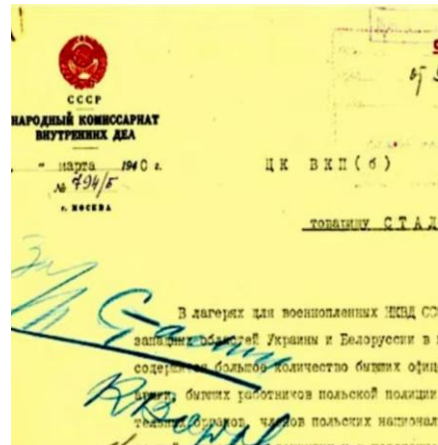


5. Surviving Katyń

9th January 2027

Jane Rogoyska

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1998643880649?aff=oddtcreator>



Jane Rogoyska is a writer and historian whose work explores themes of conflict, exile, memory and politics in 20th-century Europe, with a particular interest in the turbulent period between the 1930s and the beginning of the Cold War. Her books include the prize-winning 'Surviving Katyń', about the 1940 massacre of 22,000 Polish prisoners-of-war by the Soviet secret police, and 'Gerda Taro: Inventing Robert Capa', the first English-language biography of the photojournalist Gerda Taro. She has also written a novel, 'Kozłowski', about a survivor of the Katyń Massacre. Her latest book, 'Hotel Exile', tells the story of three groups of people connected to the Hotel Lutetia in Paris during the 1930s-40s. Published in 2026 by Allen Lane/Penguin Press, 'Hotel Exile' was shortlisted for the 2026 Women's Prize for Non-Fiction.

Surviving Katyń: The Katyń Massacre of 22,000 Polish prisoners of war is a crime to which there are no witnesses. Committed in utmost secrecy in April–May 1940 by the NKVD on Stalin's direct orders, for nearly fifty years the Soviets maintained the fiction that Katyń was a Nazi crime. The lie went unchallenged by Western governments fearful of upsetting a powerful wartime ally and Cold War adversary. Jane Rogoyska explores the decades-long search for answers, focusing on the experience of those individuals with the most at stake – the few survivors of the massacre and the Polish wartime forensic investigators – whose quest for the truth in the face of an inscrutable, unknowable, and utterly ruthless enemy came at great personal cost.



6. Marshal Edward Śmigły-Rydz – The Meteoric Rise and Fall of Poland's Commander-in-Chief in 1939

20 February 2027

Dr Andrzej Suchcitz

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/marshal-edward-smigly-rydz-the-rise-of-polands-commander-in-chief-in-1939-tickets-1998646300888?aff=oddtcreator>



Dr Andrzej Suchcitz is an historian and retired archivist. A graduate and postgraduate of SSEES University of London, doctorate and habilitation from the Jan Długosz University of Częstochowa. 1989-2025: Keeper of Archives of the Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum and the Polish Underground Movement (1939-1945) Study Trust. 2007-2025: Chairman of the Polonia Aid Foundation Trust. Since 2019 Chairman of the Polish Society of Arts and Sciences Abroad. Has written and edited extensively in Polish and English, being the author, co-author, editor and co-editor of over 400 books and articles. He has presented papers at over thirty historical conferences and symposiums. He specialises in Polish military history of the first half of the 20th century and the history of the Polish Government in Exile 1945-1990, with emphasis on the history of Polish military intelligence and biographical studies. Edward Śmigły-Rydz is virtually unknown to the English-speaking world, despite being the first C-in-C on the Allied side of the first campaign of the Second World War. The paper aims firstly to present his rise from a humble background to command of the Polish Forces in 1939, being regarded as Poland's most experienced and successful military commander of the Polish-Bolshevik War of 1919-1920. Secondly to show him as C-in-C in September 1939 within the political, military and economic context of the situation, the decisions he made during the Polish 1939 Campaign and how they impacted the Campaign. Thirdly in conclusion to provide a brief assessment of him as C-in-C and conclude with his fate after the Campaign.



7. Napoleon in Pan Tadeusz

20 March 2027

Professor Richard Butterwick-Pawlikowski

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1998648592743?aff=oddtcreator>



Richard Butterwick-Pawlikowski has since 2013 been Professor of Polish-Lithuanian History at the UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies. He also holds the European Civilization Chair at the College of Europe in Natolin. As Principal Historian of the Polish History Museum in Warsaw he co-curated the exhibition: *The Insurgent Republic: The Kościuszko Insurrection and Its Traditions* (2025). Among his books are *Poland's Last King and English Culture: Stanisław August Poniatowski 1732-1798* (1998), *The Polish Revolution and the Catholic Church 1788-1792* (2012), *The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, 1733-1795: Light and Flame* (2020), and *Lithuania: A History* (2025). The subject of his inaugural lecture at UCL was "Lithuania" and "Poland" in Adam Mickiewicz's *Pan Tadeusz*. Napoleon in 'Pan Tadeusz' Napoleon Bonaparte casts a long shadow over Adam Mickiewicz's national epic poem, *Pan Tadeusz* (1834). Although he remains off-stage, the Emperor of the French is crucial to the plot, which is set in 1811-12, before and during his invasion of the Russian Empire. The backstory of Jacek Soplica/Father Robak spans the panorama of the Napoleonic wars. Napoleon personifies two or three generations' hopes for the full restoration of the Polish-Lithuanian fatherland that had been partitioned for the third time in 1795. Yet the poem's depiction of the 'god of war' is nuanced. On the one hand, Napoleon is hailed as an agent of the divine will, as in 'God is with Napoleon, and Napoleon is with us!'. On the other hand, the Bard conveys the doubts held by some ordinary nobles in the former Grand Duchy of Lithuania about the compatibility of the emperor's ambitions with national and Catholic values.

The Polish Heritage Society UK: www.polishheritage.co.uk



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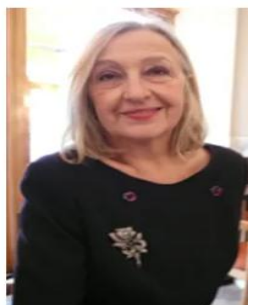
Malgosia Alterman



Chris Januszewski



Hanka Januszewska



Teresa Stella-Sawicka



Basia Korzeniowska



Dr. Marek Stella-Sawicki



Professor Norman Davies



Professor Andrzej Nowak



Professor Antony Polonsky



Dr Halik Kochanski



Dr Dermot Turing



Mr Jarek Garliński



Dr Paul Latawski



Mr Roger Moorhouse



Dr Andrzej Suchcitz



Polish Heritage Society (UK)



The 15th Anniversary of the Polish Heritage Society UK

The dedication and the depth of work done by the Polish Heritage Society UK by all accounts is unprecedented in the promotion of Polish History and Culture. Our motto says it all, *The Polish Heritage Society - a British Charity with a Polish Heart.*

The Polish Heritage Society's conferences have covered many key moments in Polish Military History. The first conference covered the leadership of Polish Generals in World II amongst them General Anders, General Sosabowski and General Maczek. We have also covered other interesting topics: The Polish Underground State, and in 2017 the Polish Air Force (PAF) Squadrons 303 and 302 in the Battle of Britain. This was followed by The Polish Section of the S.O.E. with the special British agent, Krystyna Skarbek (Christine Granville), Winston Churchill's favourite spy. Many other subjects have been covered too.

We are about to start our next 2026/2027 academic year of The Institute of Polish Military History. After many years of Jarek Garliński's stalwart work as Dean of Faculty, we have very successfully introduced Dr Stanisław Librowski who last year took over this role during the IPMH Autumn Semester in 2025. I am sure you will all agree with me, that Jarek Garliński's four years at the helm of IPMH since 2020, was most exceptional and that we all owe him the highest gratitude and a massive thank you for his hard work. He always emphasised the historic facts reminding everyone that the Polish Nation has played an important and critical role in European history. We welcome you to the Polish Heritage Society future conferences and IPMH lectures. Our very first conference was held over 11 years ago at The Royal College in Defence Studies (RCDS) together with The British Commission for Military History (BCMh).

Dr Marek Stella-Sawicki MBE KM KCSG

Chairman, Polish Heritage Society (U.K.)

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IPMH DIGITAL LIBRARY OF OUR RECORDED LECTURES

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YouTube platform with access available only by a
request to polishheritagesocietyuk@gmail.com
specifying which lecture is required with the relevant
date of lecture

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INSTITUTE OF POLISH MILITARY HISTORY DIGITAL LIBRARY (2020/22)

- 1 The Battle of Warsaw 1920: 100 Years Ago **Professor Norman Davies** 17/10/2020
- 2 An Introduction to Poland's Security Dilemmas **Professor Andrzej Nowak** 31/10/2020
- 3 Poland Between the Wars **Professor Antony Polonsky** 14/11/2020
- 4 Forming The New Polish Army, The Influence of Józef Piłsudski **Dr Paul Latawski** 28/11/2020
- 5 The Outbreak of WWII and Poland **Mr Roger Moorhouse** 12/12/2020
- 6 Poland's Greatest Contribution to WWII – Enigma **Dr Dermot Turing** 30/01/2021
- 7 Poland's Armed Forces during WWII and the complexities of an army in exile **Dr Andrzej Suchcitz** 13/02/2021
- 8 Polish Political Developments During WWII **Mr Jarek Garlinski** 27/02/2021
- 9 The Polish Underground State During WWII **Mr Jarek Garlinski** 13/03/2021
- 10 The Eagle Unbowed - Poland's Place in the World **Dr Halik Kochanski** 27/03/2021
- 11 Mieszko to NATO: Military Alliances in Polish History **Professor Norman Davies** 09/10/2021
- 12 Poland's Security Dilemmas up to 1800 **Professor Andrzej Nowak** 16/10/2021
- 13 Generals: Kościuszko and Pułaski **General David Tadeusz Ząbecki** 30/10/2021
- 14 Poland's Security Dilemmas after 1800 **Professor Bolek Biskupski** 13/11/2021
- 15 Poland's Armies during the time of Napoleon **Mr Adam Zamoyski** 27/11/2021
- 16 The Personification of Poland's 19th Century Military Struggle: Józef Z. Bem **Dr Paul Latawski** 11/12/2021
- 17 Poland's Politics: 1914-1939 **Professor Antony Polonsky** 29/01/2022
- 18 Poland's Cipher Security in WWII: -1. An Overview **Dr Dermot Turing** 12/02/2022
- 19 Poland in WWII **Mr Roger Moorhouse** 19/03/2022
- 20 Poland's Cipher Security in WWII – 2. Polish Intelligence traffic **Dr Franciszek Rozwadowski** 16/04/2022

INSTITUTE OF POLISH MILITARY HISTORY DIGITAL LIBRARY (2022/24)

- 21 Poland: A Battlefield, 1812-1945 **Dr Halik Kochanski** 30/04/2022
- 22 Poland's Security Challenges through the Ages **Professor Andrzej Nowak** 01/10/2022
- 23 Chicken Coop & Marauding Foxes: Military Strategy in Polish-Lithuanian **Professor Robert Frost** 8/10/2022
- 24 War Against Russia 1792 **Professor Richard Butterworth-Pawlikowski** 15/10/2022
- 25 The Three Partitions of Poland: 1772, 1793, 1795 **Professor Antony Polonsky** 29/10/2022
- 26 The Siege of Przemyśl **Professor Alexander Watson** 26/11/2022
- 27 Piłsudski as Military Leader **Dr Paul Latawski** 10/12/2022
- 28 The 1939 Polish Campaign **Mr Roger Moorhouse** 28/01/2023
- 29 The Polish Naval Campaign of September 1939 **Dr Andrzej Suchcitz** 11/02/2023
- 30 IPMH Panel Discussion – Poland's Strategic Challenges since 1945 (**Chair Mr Jarek Garlinski**) 18/03/2023
- 31 Polish Armed Forces in UK during WWII **Ms. Jennifer Grant** 15/04/2023
- 32 Battle of Grunwald **Professor Sven Ekdahl** 21/10/2023
- 33 Poland on the cusp of the 19th Century **Professor Antony Polonsky** 28/10/2023
- 34 The Polish January Uprising 1863 **Professor Andrzej Nowak** 11/11/2023
- 35 Kraków in World War I **Professor Alexander Watson** 18/11/2023
- 36 Masterclass in Operational Art: The Battle of Warsaw August 1920 **Dr Paul Latawski** 09/12/2023
- 37 The Polish Air Force in the Battle of Britain **Mr Richard Kornicki CBE** 27/01/2024
- 38 The Berling Army **Roger Moorhouse** 10/02/2024
- 39 Polish Soldiers and Civilians in Hungary 1929-45 **Dr Halik Kochanski** 16/03/2024
- 40 Poles in Britain in WWII **Ms. Jennifer Grant** 20/04/2024

INSTITUTE OF POLISH MILITARY HISTORY DIGITAL LIBRARY (2024/25)

- 41 Poland's Place in Europe Over the Centuries **Dr Andrzej Nowak** 5/10/2024
42 The Great Northern War 1700 -1721 **Dr Mindaugas Sapoka** 19/10/2024
43 The Battle of Racławice **Dr Richard Butterwick Pawlikowski** 26/10/2024
44 The Place of War in Polish Literature **Professor Stanley Bill** 09/11/2024
45 Polish Soldiers in the German Army in WW1 **Professor Alexander Watson** 16/11/2024
46 The Polish Campaign 1939 **Mr Roger Moorhouse** 30/11/2024
47 The Defence of Warsaw 1939 **Dr Paul Latawski** 07/12/2024
48 The Defence of Lwów – September 1939 **Dr Andrzej Suchcitz** 15/02/2025
49 Polish SOE from the British Perspective **Mr Anthony Massey** 15/03/2025
50 Polish Resettlement Act in the UK **Dr Agata Błaszczyk** 12/04/2025
51 The London Victory Parade June 1946 **Ms. Jennifer Grant** 10/05/2025



Professor Andrzej Nowak



Dr Mindaugas Šapoka



Professor Richard Butterwick Pawlikowski



Professor Stanley Bill



Professor Alexander Watson



Mr Roger Moorhouse



Dr Paul Latawski



Dr Andrzej Suchcitz



Mr Anthony Massey



Dr Agata Błaszczyk



Ms. Jennifer Grant

INSTITUTE OF POLISH MILITARY HISTORY DIGITAL LIBRARY (2025/26)

52 The Odysseyski: One Man's War: A Nation's Fate **Michael Moszynski** 11/10/2025

53 Major General Stanisław Maczek: An Assessment of Command and Leadership **Dr. Paul Latawski** 15/11/2025

54 British Military Mission to Poland 1939: **Anthony Massey** 29/11/2025

55 A Little Poland in Wales – The story of three former Polish military hospitals in Penley and Iscoyd (1941-2004):
Stanisław Bereza 10/11/2026

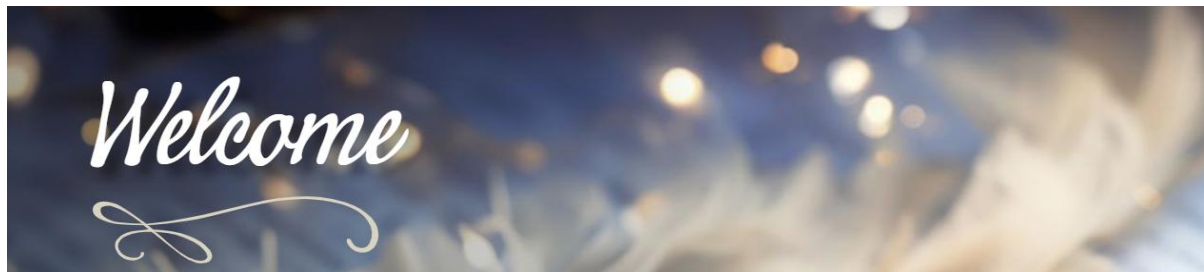
56 Rhineland Hitler's last defence 1944-45: **Anthony Tucker-Jones** 24/01/2026

57 Sikorski – An Investigation into the crash that killed Sikorski on 4th July 1943 Gibraltar:
Chris Wróblewski 21/02/2026

58 F2, one of the most important intelligence networks in occupied France:
Franciszek Jordan Rozwadowski 7/03/2026

59 1941 Sikorski-Maisky pact: **Jarek Garliński** 11/04/2026

60 Honouring the Polish Dead – The Imperial Commission and Politics of Post-War Commemoration:
Jennifer Grant 25/04/2026



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Polish Heritage Society (UK)



Lieutenant-General Stanisław Kopański

1895 – 1976

Hero of Tobruk

Andrzej Suchcitz



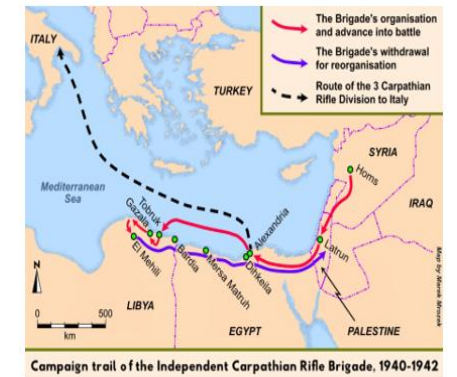
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Despite nearly half a century having passed since his death, no academic biography has yet appeared of a man who was both one of Poland's leading commanders of the Second World War and a key stalwart of the post-war Polish exiled community in Great Britain. Polish Heritage Society UK undertook in 2026 this important publishing project.

This 43-page academic biography of Lieutenant-General Stanisław Kopański - HERO OF TOBRUK by Dr Andrzej Suchcitz was published in London UK in August 2026 by Polish Heritage Society UK. Retail price £15 + P&P.

Enquires: polishheritagesocietyuk@gmail.com

