

## Antoni Kawulok (1922- 2010)



Antoni Kawulok, known as 'Toni' in England, was born in Istebna, Poland – "Antek z Chałpki." Antoni served in the I lekkim Dywizjonie Artylerii Powietrznej, I- Samodzielnej Brygady Spadochronowej. The Polish Independent Parachute Brigade. In 1939, when Germany invaded Poland he was captured but he quickly escaped. Unfortunately, he suffered injury in the process. Antoni joined the Polish free army as a paratrooper. He was made Lance Corporal. During the conflict, he went on several missions including operation Market Garden. He was awarded two medals: the War Medal (1939-1945), and the Poolse Parachutishien Driel (1944-1960).

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In his spare time 'Toni' was a keen gardener and was also very good at joinery making wooden lamps, pet hutches and even a windmill in the garden which is still standing.

Toni met and married Thelma Rodgers, who already had a daughter, Josephine. Peter Jałowiczor was his Godson. They also visited Poland many times. After 16 years of marriage. Thelma passed away in August 2006. Toni eventually developed Alzheimers disease and his step-son Clive Kavulok and wife Pauline cared for him in his last years as elder brother Bryn and wife Janet lived much further away. He lived out his last years at his home and wouldn't be persuaded to leave and live nearer to stepson Clive and his family because he loved his home too much and had good neighbours. His health eventually deteriorated, he was admitted to the Northern General Hospital in Sheffield where he died of Pneumonia on 13.04.2010.

This is an account was put together with the assistance of Clive Kavulok and Anna Bury from Istebna, Poland.

