

Julian Adamek (1937-)



Julian during First Communion (1943).

Julian Adamek was born in Dolikowka, Sokol at the time in Poland, now a town in the Ukraine in 1937. His father bought a large estate called Sokal from a Russian nobleman for a low price in the newly created Poland. The land was purchased at a very cheap price and it covered a large area. Julian's father's story is also covered in this book.

September 1939 and Poland was invaded by Germany and the Soviets. The Soviets went through Poland district by district evicting Poles out to Siberia and it was a matter of time before they got to Julian father's estate. And so that time came in February 1940. All the family's life was turned upside down. Julian's family was torn from the estate at gunpoint by soldiers from the Soviet army. They were loaded on a cattle truck and sent on arduous journey to Siberia. They passed town after town, leaving their home far behind on an arduous journey by train, which lasted six weeks. Not long after reaching their offloading point in the Soviet Union where there were no more train tracks. Another transport of people from the neighbourhood reached the family (it had been impossible for the Soviets to transport everyone at once). One of whom was a former Policeman, who informed Julian's father that nothing remained of the estate... Everything had been burnt and looted. The perpetrators were led by Communists and even included some people who had worked on the Estate... On this journey, his mother gave birth to Julian's sister but she died a few days later due to the lack of nourishment and cold. The harsh conditions meant that hunger, cold and sickness were often a cause of suffering. His younger brother Mieczyslaw and an old lady became sick when the

train had to stop for two days to let an army train pass. This was normal - sometimes the train was stuck for a week as they waited. The Soviet Army was on its way to the front. A Russian nurse gave them some medicine but that night both died. They had been poisoned as this was a way of getting rid of the sick.

1941, during their time in the Soviet Union, General Wladyslaw Anders started forming his Polish army in the USSR. Of the 1,700,000 Poles were shipped to Siberia about 500,000 joined under General Anders' Army (approximate figures). Julian's father and older brother joined Anders' Army and they then sailed the Caspian Sea on Russian tankers eventually arriving in Persia. A few weeks later, they lived in the Shah stables in Ahvas for three years, these were large buildings. 1944, saw Julian and his family leave Persia. They travelled on buses through the Persian desert and then onto Syria. Everyone was relieved when they arrived in Lebanon. There was a choice of destinations: India, Africa or Lebanon. Lebanon was the closest. So it was a relief that there was finally somewhere to settle. At first, the UNRA (United Nations Refugee Agency) located everyone in mountain villages. It was here that Julian started his first job.

...

Towards the end of his working life, he moved to work at a Test House laboratory, Templeborough, Rotherham took retirement (1997) and has not looked back since.

This account was put together from interviews and information supplied by Julian Adamek.



1944, Cubs group photo in Persia.



1944, Julian Adamek with priest and friends, Lebanon.



1953, August – saw the arrival in Dover, after filling-in forms, Julian was transported to a transit camp near Canterbury. Two weeks later, sent to a larger camp in Mepal, near Ely, Cambridgeshire.



1996 – Swinden Labs, Rotherham. Julian receiving a Safety Certificate for using proper safety glasses!