

Stanisław Hasiuk (1915-1991)



Stanisław in the UK @ 1947.

Stanisław or Stan as most of his friends knew him, was born in the village of Zabrodzie, in the Nowogródek region in Eastern Poland (now in Belarus) on 15.11.1915. He came from a very large family and before the war served in the prestigious “Korpus Ochrony Granicznej” the Border Protection Corps. They served an important purpose protecting the Eastern border areas, particularly from gangs of marauding bandits. In 1939, when the Soviet army attacked, Stan, then twenty-three, was taken prisoner. In 1941, when the Nazis attacked the Soviet Union he was transported into the deep interior of the Soviet Union. The agreement signed between Soviet ambassador Majski in London and General Sikorski resulted in an amnesty for Poles deported to the Soviet Union. With his new found freedom, Stan was able to leave the Soviet Union for Iraq. From there, he managed to secure passage and travel by ship with others from General Anders’ Polish Army, stopping in Cape Town in Southern Africa, before continuing the journey around Africa and eventually ending up in Scotland. Stan served in the forces under General Stanisław Maczek in the 1st Armoured Tank Regiment. and received military honours (twice) for single-handedly saving a situation as described on the Military Medal honours below. Stan was demobbed and, like many other Polish ex-soldiers, chose to remain in Britain. As one of the major consequences of WWII had been the re-drawing of the map of Europe, Stan’s home village was now in Stalin’s Soviet Union, and not a place to which he could return. Therefore, he

applied to work for the Coal Board (1947) receiving his training in Wales. After this, he chose to work in the Rotherham area and ended up joining his fellow compatriots in the Herringthorpe Valley Road Miners' Hostel. When the Hostel closed in the summer of 1959, Stan looked for lodgings elsewhere. He stayed with different Poles around Rotherham, among others the Zaleśny family. He would also stay at Antoni Jałowiczor's house, although that came much later in the 1970s, and this was where the author first came to know him. By this time he had ceased working in the mining industry, had more free time, and spent his free moments taking Patch, a mongrel dog and his true companion, for walks in the nearby fields. On other occasions, he would listen to records that had been brought over from Poland. Listening to these records would often move him to tears, as he relived memories of Poland. Finally he settled at the Sue Ryder Home, Hickleton Hall in 1989. This was something the author personally arranged.

The remaining paragraphs are available in the book.

This account has been drawn up after discussions with Marian Macko, from letters to Stan's family and put together from remaining documents and from the author's own memories. His story is fragmentary. It is a privilege for the author to have known such a person.

MINISTERSTWO SPRAW WOJSKOWYCH

No. Leg. 11159



LEGITYMACJA

orderu wojennego

“VIRTUTI MILITARI”



Podpis właściciela legitymacji

Stanisław Hasiuk.

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Nr. krzyża.....

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Londyn, dnia 6. 11. 1945

The Virtuti Militari Class V – Silver Cross awarded to Stanisław Hasiuk.



MILITARY MEDAL

Corporal Stanislaw HASIUK,
Polish Army.

On 20th April, 1945, Corporal HASIUK was No.1 in 17 pounder gun, which was in position at NIEUWOLDA, HOLLAND. At 0500 hours a strong detachment of about sixty men attacked the above mentioned village. The infantry withdrew and the situation which would become serious was saved by Corporal HASIUK. This man did not stop firing the 17 pounder and Bren machine gun until he had used all his ammunition.

The range he was firing at, was at times less than 25 yards.

Award of the Military Medal to Stanisław Hasiuk.

THE POLISH RESERVE MILITARY CORPS ON

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(1) SOLDIER'S NAME and DESCRIPTION on ATTESTATION.

Army Number 30234/27/E

Surname (in capitals) HASIUK

Christian Names (in full) STANISLAW

Date of Birth 15.11.1916

Place of Birth { Parish
In or near the town of
In the county of

Trade on Enlistment Agriculturist

Nationality of Father at birth

Nationality of Mother at birth

Religious Denomination Catholic

Approved Society

Membership No.

Enlisted at London

For the :-
* Regular Army. * Supplementary Reserve.
* Territorial Army. * Army Reserve Section D.
* Strike out those inapplicable.

For 2 years with the Colours and 1 years in the Reserve

Signature of Soldier Stanislaw Hasiuk

Date 19 Aug 1943

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DESCRIPTION ON ENLISTMENT.

Height 164 cm ins. Weight 66 kg lbs.

Maximum Chest 92 cm ins. Complexion fair

Eyes grey Hair sl. blond

Distinctive Marks and Minor Defects

DISCHARGED


CONDITION ON TRANSFER TO

Found fit for

Defects or History of past illness which should be enquired into if called up for Service.

Date 19

Initials of M.O. i/c.



Stanisław's Soldier's Service and Pay Book.