

Roots and Wings

Bimonthly newspaper

Editor notes.

It's already September outside. The evenings are getting longer and longer, so there is more time to remind holiday memories, for reflection. You will probably browse photos from travels, trips or family gatherings. Perhaps you would like to share? Such an internal trip back is sometimes necessary to realize how much we have forgotten about collecting what is important. About memories - and about the time without which we cannot create memories nor their mementos. Check your computers, check out the hundreds of photos you don't even remember, and try to pick your 10 favourites. Difficult right? Although it is not an easy task, it is still very enjoyable. And then share them with us in our magazine. Memories seem to be pieces of a puzzle. Only when put together, they create a specific story. Our family story.

Jacek Kulasa

The story of Stefan Kuszpa

Stefan Kuszpa was born in 1896 in Lviv. He was a primary school student in Twierdza, district of Mościce from 1902 to 1907, then he was employed from 1913 to 1914 in Brewers' Joint Stock Society in Lviv as a locksmith student.



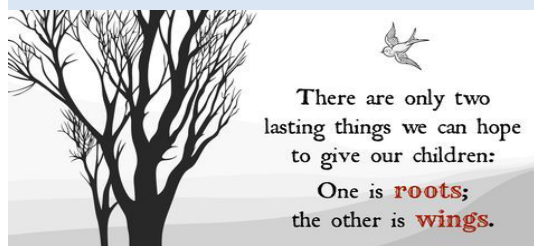
In 1914 he joined the Legions and served in the 3rd infantry regiment of 12th company as a senior private until 1918. In Legions he used the name Dębowski and reached the rank of sergeant.

He took part in the Carpa-

thian campaign in 1914, Besarabian campaign in 1915 and two others (illegible information in the certificate of the Chief of Staff of the 9th Infantry Division). On 15 February he took part in the Battle of Kaniow, for which he received the Kaniow Cross No. 1773. He was also authorized to wear the badge of the Podlasie Division.

From 1918 to 1921 he served in the 34th Infantry Regiment of the Polish Army. During this time he took part in several major battles (unfortunately, it is difficult to read notes in the military booklet). He was awarded the Carpathian Cross and the Badge of the Second Brigade of the Legions, the Cross of Valour with two swords No. 40248, the Cross of Independence and the Commemorative Medal for the War of 1918-1921.

In 1922 he started working for



There are only two lasting things we can hope to give our children:
One is **roots**;
the other is **wings**.

IN THIS ISSUE

The story of Stefan Kuszpa

I work in plane services

Poetry

the State Police as a constable in Staresioło. After that he worked in Leżajsk and Albigowa in Łańcut county and was promoted to the rank of a leader in 1933. Then he meets Genowefa Marcinek, with whom he is getting married. They have two daughters, Danuta (1929) and Kazimiera (1932). He is moving with his family to Lviv. Before the outbreak of the Second World War his wife came to Żołynia for vacations with



her daughters. After the outbreak of the war she left her daughters with her sister and returned to Lviv for winter clothes for the children. During his work in the police he was awarded the Bronze and Silver Medal for long service, the Medal of the Decade of Independence and the Bronze Cross of Merit.

After the Russian aggression against Poland, he took part in the defense of Lviv and was arrested after Lviv was occupied by the Red Army. While waiting to be shot, he escapes from a prison and hides near Lviv. At nights he visits his wife and during such a visit his neighbor reports to the NKVD. They are arrested and de-

ported to Siberia. The wife writes letters to her sisters in Żołynia, in which she describes the terrible situation of Poles and their life in the camp. I am in possession of letters in which she asks for such prosaic things as soap, a pencil for her to write to them, or fat to grease her face, due to very low temperatures.

After announcing the creation of Anders' Army in Russia, he finds his wife in a sovkhos in Kazakhstan in a very bad condition. He takes her to a hospital most probably in Alma-Ata, where she dies. With the Polish army he goes through a combat route and gets to England. There he settles down near Manchester.

He is getting married a second time with a Polish woman named Barbara. His daughters and aunts find him through the Red Cross. The father deliberately did not contact the family because of the political situation and the fear of children in order not to bring danger to



them. Kazimiera, his daughter and my mother-in-law, visited him three times in England. Until his death, he did not accept British citizenship. During her last visit in 1987, he died at the age of 90.

Jacek Kulasa



I work in plane services

To deal with one of the international complaints I went to Romania with Wladyslaw Florek. Romanians claimed several defects in fittings and airframe in AN-2 planes they bought from us. The most difficult part to organise was fuel meter, which fuel floaters were constantly drowning in their diesel. I have removed fuel meters and accepted complaints on that ground, explaining to them the outcome will depend on the quality of diesel analyse and the final decision from the fuel meter manufacturer.

The Company commercial adviser directed us to a private accommodation with a certain professor. That worked for us, because with that allocated accommodation we had food included in the price. Professor's wife cooked all the traditional romanian dishes for us. The tastiest were romanian version of our 'golabki', but not in cabbage, but in peppers. Every day we had royal feast for dinner,

but I think they had a good business catering for us, our company paid them lots of money for our accommodation. We both benefited from that stay. Interesting story regarding that professor is that I met him a few years later, in a hotel in Algiers, he was attending some conference.

We enjoyed romanian wines and cognacs, which you could get in every small cafes and little restaurants. One of the mechanics gave me a bottle of 'cojka', romanian homemade plum spirit. We opened that bottle when we got back to our room, but we couldn't drink

it. It was awful and stank horribly.

We got invited home by one of our engineers who works with our AN-2 planes. His name was Grecu, he had a beautiful apartment and a stunning wife, brunette named Aneta. Without thinking I said to her she's beautiful like a gypsy girl. Turned out my compliment was really offending for her, when I compared her to gypsy. I had to explain, in Poland it's not offending as we find gypsy girls very beautiful. I was trying to defend my judgment in half polish half russian language, but she wasn't happy with me after that. I need to explain, we communicated with them mostly in russian, their engineers were fluent, we were not, but we could understand each other.

Grecu and the rest of romanian engineers we worked with at the airport were very proud of their country's achievements in mechanics, giving us lots of examples of success. One of them was a tractor they made which they tested by connecting it with rope with american made tractor. Their tractor won that rope drag. I found it funny how they used it as a professional method to test their products.

When we finished work at the airport dealing with complaints, Grecu organised us a trip. He took his company car and we went to visit the northern region of Romania up to Braszow. The four of us, Grecu, his wife, me and Florek saw lots of beautiful landscapes.

Grecu was a very nice Romanian, we became friends after this trip. He visited Mielec, when his company was collecting another planes shipment. I organised a small party that time, inviting also two other Romanians and Wawrzek Tomczyk. At that time life in Romania was much better than in Poland. They had products in shops we could only dream of. Ceausescu who ruled

Romania separated his politics from Moscow, which was very effective. Romania was the only socialist country, who took China side in China - ZSRR conflict. Albania joined them later. At that time it looked like it was enough to free yourself from Moscow influence to make life in communist country easier. It was wrong thinking, later years proved that the whole system was evil. Later on Ceausescu stopped caring about his people and drove his Romania deeper into crisis.

There, on the street, we met an ex Red Army officer, who fled that army during World War II. He was officially declared as dezerter and sentenced to death, hiding in Romania. He was





Ukrainian, with a troubled past, but we were listening eagerly to his interesting stories, when he invited us to his little flat. He was pouring us shot after shot from a canister under his bed during those visits.

With saved money I brought lots of interesting things from Romania, which we couldn't get in Poland at that time. I remember nice T-shirts for kids and black pepper I bought really cheap. I had a lot of that pepper at home for a long time.

Teofil Lenartowicz

Excerpt from the article on the website <http://cowiechanikolotnictwa.blogspot.com/2020/07/serwis-wsk-mielec-lata-60-te-i-70-te.html>



Poetry of Marta Hanus



Ballada potłuczonego

Przy ziemi pełźnie chęć nieujarzmiona
by biegać po niej dotykając nieba,
w jej wnętrzu szukać pary skrzydeł śnionych,
zaś z aniołami podzielić się chlebem.

Nie pierwsza moja i niedokończona
nie doprzedzona nic wiecznego tułacza.
Puste poranki, wieczorów lampiony
szarą żebraczą drogę naprzód znaczą.

Wystają w stęchłej ciszy na rogatkach
dozorcy mojej dziennej racji szczęścia.
Skończona sprzedaż wyrobu na kartki!
Wypadnie znowu walczyć o nie pięścią...

Lecz kiedy wreszcie trochę się ogarnę,
załatam dziury w duszy, na kolanach,
wytarte reszki uczuć zgarnę marne
i w jedno złoży je głowa sterana,

gdy uda mi się w końcu dobić brzegu
Krainy Zawsze Sytych i Odzianych,
wtedy ja będę po mej ziemi biegać!
Odrośną skrzydła dawno obiecane.

Potem przysiadę na bruku u Bramy
na szlaku piekła i nieba, oklakiem,
niech no do czapki jeden uśmiech skapnie –
tam najbogatszym ja będę żebrakiem!

* * *

zajesieniło
zabajało
babie lato w myśli zaplotło
zaśpiewało w uschłych słonecznikach
w kartofliskach zadymiło
zadumało
zabłysnęło we mgle
zimnym wiatrem zgasło...

* * *

Nieśmiałym głosem drga we wnętrzu ucha
myśl.
Targa ciszę, rwie na strzępy, zgrzyta.
Komu nie miała,
nie miała szkodę temu wyrządziła.
Kłócąc, kłopotząc, spokój burzy,
pragnie reakcji, wymaganiem nuży.
Zbiec przed nią? Uciec?
Nie ma miejsca w świecie,
by schować własne wygodne mieszkanie.
Nieprzyjacielem snu, błogiego wytchnienia
wyrzut sumienia.

Boże – Świecie, Nieprzejrzana Tajemnico,
choć obłokiemś, niebo, ziemię masz zajadno.
Nie przegarną wiosła wód Twojej mądrości,
ni ramiona Twej miłości nie obejmą.

Boże – Wietrze, moce ziarn siejesz o świecie,
By o zmierzchu przyjąć dań z naręczy wielu.
Kto o świecie w Twoje Imię w niwę wnijdzie,
Skończy żniwo swoje w śpiewie i weselu.



Calendar

July

07.17.1896

Włodzimierz Gołuchowski was born on that date - he belonged to the „Sokół” Gymnastic Society. In August 1914, he enlisted to the Military Recruitment In Mielec. He fought in the First World War. In 1918, as a soldier of the Polish army, he took part in the seizure of the Kielce land from the hands of the Russian partitioners. After the German invasion of Poland in September 1939, he made an attempt to evacuate, but only reached Chełm. After the expulsion of the Germans and the departure of the front west in January 1945, he became the head of the Tobacco Sales Department of the Polish Tobacco Monopoly in Kielce and held this position until the end of 1950. In the following years he lived in Zakopane.

07.21.2016

Janina Wanda Świetlik passed away on that day - after the death of her parents, at the age of 14, the most important thing for her was the survival of the German and Russian occupation of Poland (1939 and 1944). Her brother Frank facilitated her dramatic escape from Poland to freedom (1946). Thanks to her lifelong passion for teaching reading and writing, she came to Canada in 1960, where she obtained a bachelor's degree (McGill, 1965). She taught children in primary schools at various locations in Canada (1960-1966), then moved to the Arctic, where she taught in Iqaluit (1966-1969), Pond Inlet (1969-1972) and Rankin Inlet (1973-1988). The Eskimos have treated her as one of them for 22 years and have remained loyal for the past 50 years. Children, books and travels filled her long and colorful life. „Pucci”, her 17-year-old Arctic dog, was a constant, faithful friend.

07.24.1987

Stefan Kuszpa, a fighter for Polish independence, has died. In 1914, he joined the Legions and served in the 3rd pp 12 comp. until 1918. He took part in many campaigns. On February 15, he took part in the Battle of Kaniów, for which he was awarded the Kaniowski Cross. From 1918 to 1921 he served 34 pp. Polish army. He was awarded the Carpathian Cross and the Badge of the 2nd Legions Brigade, the Cross of Valor with two swords, the Independence Cross and the Commemorative Medal for the War of 1918-1921. After Russia's aggression against Poland, he took part in the defense of Lviv and was arrested after Lviv was occupied by the Red Army. While waiting to be shot, he escaped from prison. After the announcement of the formation of the Anders Army in Russia, he enlisted in the army. With the II Corps, he went through a combat trail and reached England. There he settled down near Manchester.

August

08.08.1944

Jan Gawęcki was born - Polish food and nutrition technologist, professor of agricultural sciences. In 1967, he graduated from the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Technology at the University of Agriculture in Poznań. For many years associated with this university (transformed into the Agricultural University and then into the University of Life Sciences in Poznań). He obtained his doctorate in 1974, he obtained his postdoctoral degree in 1982. In 1991 he was awarded the title of professor of agricultural sciences. He was a co-founder of the Department of Human Nutrition Hygiene at his alma mater. In 2011, he was awarded by President Bronisław Komorowski with the Officer's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta.

08.10.1939

Fr. prof. dr hab. Stanisław Zięba - he passed his secondary school-leaving examination in High School in Tyczyn. In the years 1957-1963 he graduated from the Higher Theological Seminary in Wrocław. In the years 1964-1968 he studied at the Faculty of Christian Philosophy of the Catholic University of Lublin. He defended his doctorate and habilitation at the Catholic University of Lublin. Fr. prof. dr hab. Stanisław Zięba held important positions, in the years 1998-2008 he was the dean of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, and in the years 2008-2012 vice-rector for Administration and Finance at the Catholic University of Lublin. He initiated the establishment of new fields of study at KUL: environmental protection, mathematics with an IT specialization, landscape architecture and computer science, which were the basis for establishing the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences.

08.12.1900

Roman Gołuchowski was born - a graduate of the Mielec primary school, and then a student of the teachers' college in Tarnów. In January 1918, he reported to the Recruitment Commission in Mielec and was sent to Bolekhiv, where he was assigned to the Polish Auxiliary Corps. After February 16, 1918, when about 1.5 thousand PKP soldiers under the command of Józef Haller disobeyed Austria and went over to the Russian side, he found himself in the unit which was interned by the Austrians. However, he managed to escape and return to Mielec. After World War II, he returned with his family to Wejherowo, where he was employed in the poviat administration and worked as a poviat clerk until his retirement.

08.21.1827

Maciej Grochmalicki, the progenitor of the Grochmalicki family from Błazowa, died. The Grochmalicki family were organists in Błazowa for several generations.

07.29.1990

Juliusz Burski passed away on that day- Polish film, theater and radio director, screenwriter. In 1989–1990, chairman of the Cinematography Committee and deputy minister of culture and art in the government of Tadeusz Mazowiecki. He initiated the reform of Polish cinematography at the time of the systemic transformation after 1989.

07.30.1943

Jan Bałda died - AKA Żbik - Piotr - second lieutenant, officer of the Home Army (1919-1943). Born in Chmielnik. After graduation, he completed military service and graduated from the Infantry Reserve Officer Cadet School in Jarosław at 24 Infantry Division. After graduating from the Officer Cadet School, he was sent to the 17th Infantry Regiment in Rzeszów, in whose ranks he took part in the September Campaign of 1939. In the fall of 1941, he took over the KIP (Information and Propaganda Directorate) department at the Home Army Inspectorate in Rzeszów and commanded the „WEDETA” organized by himself. In 1943, the „Na Posterunku” duplicating plant was accidentally discovered in Paweł Sitarz's house in Chmielnik. Piotr decides to fight the police expedition. He dies in the village of Matysówka in an unequal fight.

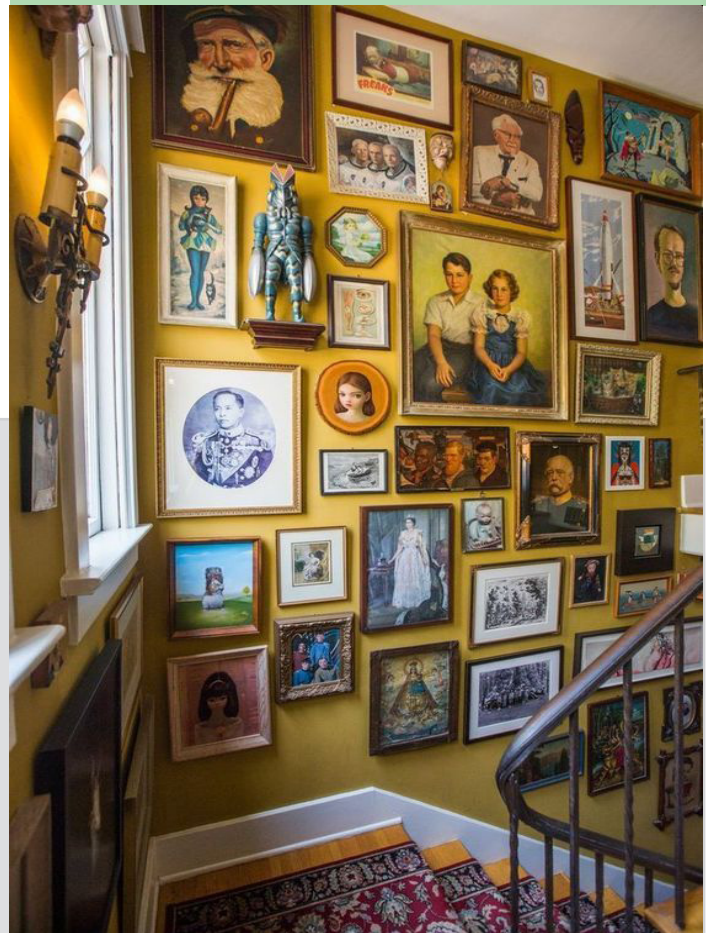


08.25.2017

Charles Arthur Heller is dead - he served in the US Army in the early years of the Vietnam War. He later joined the Ohio Army National Guard from which he retired in 1993 as a first-class sergeant. Among his numerous awards, he received the Military Merit Medal and the Humanitarian Medal. Charles Heller was a lifetime member of the American Legion Post 170, where he was a postal commander for five years, as well as the former commander of the American Legion's 5th District.

08.30.1909

Ludwik Bałda was born - teacher, editor of the underground press of the ZWZ-AK and the WiN Association. During World War II, he started to organize secret education for outstanding soldiers of the ZWZ, assuming the pseudonym „Bartek”. Ludwik received the Gold Cross of Merit with Swords. Ludwik Bałda became the literary editor of “Na Posterunku”. After the Soviets entered, he polemicized with the propaganda of the Polish Committee of National Liberation in the pages of „Na Posterunku”. After the end of the war, he left for Kraków. He spent the last period of his life in his family home in Chmielnik.



Jacek Kulasa

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