

# TALES FROM THE FOREST

**INTERVIEWS WITH MEMBERS  
OF THE POLISH RESISTANCE MOVEMENT  
IN WORLD WAR II**

**Zamość 2016**



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# Introduction

*Is there anything more pleasant than the old  
surrounded by the young who want to learn something?*

**Cicero**



Since 2008, Association „Zamojskie Voluntary Service Center” helps victims of the third Reich and Ukrainian nationalism. There is still a small group among these people, which consists of partisans, veterans and war-disabled people. They were born between 1920 and 1927. Despite their age, they have a lot of knowledge on the events of war. They remember the campaign of September 1939, the attack of Nazi Germany and Soviet Union on Poland, forming of the resistance, battles and partisan actions. They remember the genocide performed by Ukrainian Nationalists, who murdered entire Polish villages. They also remember how the socialist state maltreated soldiers of the Home Army. They want to talk and share their experiences, so that they might never happen again.

The Past still has influence on lives of next generations. It forms our reality and some facts are bound to be remembered. We, the youth of Poland, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Cyprus, Hungary and Italy, the participants of „Let me tell you a story II - A tale from the forest” project, know about it very well. These are the stories of people we talked to. You are about to read a publication which comes straight from our hearts.

We learned a lot about region’s history before the interviews. We tried to immerse into the atmosphere of partisans’ life by following historical trails. We have also exchanged experiences about talking to witnesses of history. The actions we took in this project won’t be easily forgotten. We’ve met eyewitnesses of war and we will share our knowlegde in our countries.

*Andrzej Smyk  
project coordinator*

# Resistance in Zamość region



Till 1942, the Zamość Region have developed a wide network of underground units of the Home Army and the Peasant Battalions. Because of the increase in German terror, the underground resistance was developing much faster there than in other occupied territories. When the displacement action begun in the Zamość Region, the Home Army headquarters sent regular reports to London, in order to inform about the range and nature of displacements. The reports alarmed about the fate of children, calling special attention to the brutal treatment they were subjected to during the segregation in the DP camp in Zamość, the fact that families were separated, and to children (younger than six) who were sent to the Reich to be Germanised. Further reports informed about transports from Zamość to Auschwitz and about the outrageous conditions in which children and the elder were transported to rental villages near Siedlce and Garwolin. Especially committed to informing the Polish Government in Exile about the situation in the Zamość Region was the

People's Women Union (LZK), a part of the underground „Roch” People's Party.

In the report from 23rd December 1942, the Commander of the Home Army, general Stefan „Grot” Rowecki, informed the Commander-in-Chief about the active resistance and sabotage actions he ordered to be conducted in the territory which were undergoing displacements. Simultaneously, he requested retaliatory bombing on German targets by the Allied air forces. Both issues were discussed during the meetings of the Polish Government-in-Exile and the general staff of the Army. The authorities were afraid that partisan activities would spread outside the Lublin Region which both Sikorski's government and its civil and military representatives of the occupied country believed to pose threat of uncontrolled partisan activities for which the resistance in the country was not ready yet. At same time, they were afraid of German repressions against the civilian population. However, on January 9th 1943, the Government-in-Exile sent instructions for the Government Delegate

and the Commander of the Home Army, approving their decisions.

Because if that, Subversion Troops of the Home Army, and Special Troops of the Peasant Battalions undertook a series of sabotage activities (e.g. attacks on the railways during New Year's Eve in 1942), attacks on German settlers (Udrylicze) and even engaged in clashes with German troops (e.g. skirmishes near Wojda, Róża and Zaboreczno). During that time, the partisan units conducted about 300 armed actions in total. The increased military activity sped up the formation of partisan units. Apart from military activities, wide propaganda campaign was being conducted using such resources as the underground press, leaflets, and the so-called whispering campaign.

Regardless of the activities of the Polish Underground State, military actions against the occupant were also conducted by the troops of the People's Guard (which was in January 1944 renamed the People's Army) which was under the authority of the Polish Worker's Party (PPR) and did not acknowledge the authority of the Government-in-Exile. Those troops were especially active in the borderland region between Biłgoraj and Janów powiats, where they cooperated with Soviet partisan units (...)”<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> *Jaczyńska Agnieszka: Sonderlaboratorium SS. Zamojszczyzna. IPN Lublin 2012, s.365*

### **The most important partisan battles:**

The Battle of Cześniki - 27th December 1942

The Battle of Wojda - 27th December 1942

The Battle of Zaboreczno – 1st February 1943

The Battle for Kazimierówka - 17th May 1944

The Battle of Osuchy - 25-26th June 1944

Operation „Tempest” - July 1944. The surviving Home Army units participated in this operation, which main objective was to liberate Zamość and Szczebrzeszyn, among other towns. At the end of June the whole Zamość Region has been liberated. Many Home Army partisans were forced to leave their homes in fear of repressions from communist authorities. Many has been arrested and sent to Siberia.



*Home Army Monument in Zamość*

# Zbigniew Kruk



*a scout, a partisan, an exile*

**How are you doing right now?**

*So – so, thank you.*

**What are you doing nowadays?**

*I'm resting, spending my days watching TV. My wife is younger than me and she is taking care of me. The problem is that my eyes are not as good as before, so i cannot read books anymore. I'm also going to the schools to have lectures with students.*

**Tell us something about your family?**

*My father was in the Polish legion. He was involved in the fight between Soviet Union and Poland during 1920s .Soviets were going to invade Europe. The Polish Army stopped them so they didn't reach it. The fight was called „The Miracle at the Wisła”. His father was a sergeant then.*

*I was born in 1926. When I was 4, me and my family moved to Zambrów. My father was a teacher in the officer school.*

*My mother was born in Lublin, later she moved to Lwów (it was still situated in Poland). In 1924 my parents got married and after that they*

*moved to Zaleszczyki where me, my brother and sister were born. My father was born in a village and he was a forester's son. He joined the army when Piłsudski was collecting the army to fight the Soviets.*

*In 1938 I went to gymnasium. In 1939 the war started.*

**Tell us something about your childhood. You were young when the war started.**

*My family had connections with the army, so in 1939 we were well-prepared for war. All of my friends finished shooting courses. My father went from village to village in order to organise POW (Polish Army Organization) and to teach young boys how to use guns, how to throw grenades and those kinds of things. That's why we were so well prepared for these kinds of actions.*

*I also liked reading books and collecting stamps. I liked fishing and I was a scout. I remember playing in forests, preparing for things to come.*

**Where were you living by that time when the war started?**

*It was near Lwów.*

**When did you realise that the war had started?**

*The planes came and started bombing the area. They were shooting at people. They also bombed the train station.*

**Do you remember how you felt that time you saw that?**

*As a young Polish boy, me and everyone else said that if the World War starts, we will fight to defend our country. We were all raised by our families in a very strong patriotic way and with the love of our country and when the war started, we needed to fight to defend Poland and to not let the Germans come here.*

**How did you first get involved in partisan movement?**

*When the war started my family lived in an area which was occupied by the Soviet Union and from there I moved to a place that was occupied by Germans. My father was organizing groups to start the resistant movement. I took my oath on 4th of April 1940 and since that day I was responsible for getting messages to soldiers and taking part in combat actions.*

**What did life in a forest look like?**

*There were 32 people in my group and most of them were living in the village but me and five other people were saboteurs and we were living in a house near the forest. The owner of the house let us live there and when there were military actions taking place, we prepared something to distract the enemy. In the forest we had a kitchen (a big metal kettle over a bonfire) and tents made*

*of grass and branches. We were getting bread from a Polish count from aristocratic family whose surname was Potocki. He was helping us and he was also involved in the movement.*

**What was the role of women in the partisan movement?**

*They were mostly nurses and they were living in a building in the village. When there was a fight, one of the nurses, the most prepared one, was going there to join it.*

**Did you meet and spend time with any interesting women in the forest?**

*There was a lot of beautiful and interesting girls. I remember one of them was Celina, who was very pretty, and one more, Tasha, who was in charge of all the nurses. Also very pretty. They were one year older than me. One of them, whose name was Fredzia, is still living here. I also remember Halinka Kowalewska, a daughter of a man who owned a small factory, which was producing alcohol.*

**Can you please describe us how partisan operations looked like?**

*We conducted one of the operations on October 13th 1943. Our platoon went to the forest during nighttime where it merged with another one under command of Bolesław „Penguin” Sobieszkański. We went East to the village of Mołodiatycze. We had two main objectives: eradicating a German post and retaliating action on the Ukrainians for murdering Polish citizens. „Penguin” told us to stay alert and not to act on*

our own. There had to be at least two of us each time we did something. Some of us took care of the German post. It turned out that there was only one German out there. Me and my colleagues were sent to retake the community building. When „Penguin” tried to open the door, we heard shots. The Germans threw grenades at us. We jumped back and hid behind the corner of the building. Our friends stayed in the yard of the building. Suddenly, a Gestapo officer appeared in the doorway, who was aiming at corporal Henryk „Crane” Kapton. When I saw that, I immediately shot at the German, who fell on the floor dead. When we came back, the officer thanked me for saving his life.

I also remember another important operation which was an ambush on SS major Manthaj, a violent German officer who often hurt workers working for the occupant in the nearby forest. They asked us to get rid of him. It was on the 30th of April 1944. We split into two groups. One of them was near the road, the other one was responsible for giving the signal when the officer was coming. The man gave us the signal. Manthaj was going to Zamość in two carriages pulled by beautiful horses. We had guns and an RKM, so when they came near we threw a grenade to scare the horses. After that, we started to shoot and we killed everyone in the first carriage. We could see them falling out. A problem appeared when one of the guns got jammed and we couldn't shoot with it anymore. Then we saw that someone from the other carriage fell out. We thought that everyone was dead, but Manthaj

was just pretending and he suddenly stood up and started to run, even though he was injured. Someone said then: „Do not shoot him, I will take care of him”. He ran after the officer, shot him in his legs to incapacitate him and later shot him to death. At this moment, we had to run away. We split into two groups, because it was a safer option. Before that, we took the soldiers' uniforms, because they could be useful. We stayed in hiding in a different place for one week and were afraid that someone would find us. One of the Germans survived, even though he was shot in his stomach. He returned to the garrison and said that a „Russian band” attacked them. In the evening, the Germans sent two planes and they were flying close to the ground, checking the area but they couldn't find anyone. They were really afraid that the consequences of this action would hit the village, but the news has spread that it was the Soviets so there were virtually no consequences.

**What was the thing that helped you get through the war the most and keep your personality?**

*It was, and still is, my love to Poland.*

**Would you describe your cooperation with your colleagues and other partisans groups as difficult?**

*No, it was not difficult to cooperate with them. We were all supporting each other and when there was an operation undergoing, we got each other's back. It was not very difficult for me. I was young and young people don't think about death. I was well trained with guns and well*

*prepared so I didn't have thought that something bad might happen. I was lucky during the actions.*

**Which of your achievements from back then are you proud of the most?**

*We didn't shoot women. We only shot at armed men. We didn't shoot the children neither.*

*I am proud of everything and the main thing that makes me proud is that I'm Polish.*

**We've heard that you got caught by the Germans. Can you tell us about it?**

*My cousin Stach got information that there was a meeting connected with the next operation. Later on we got information that the meeting was cancelled. My cousin showed up with a very beautiful girl and he said: „Come with me and I'll introduce you to her”. It turned out that she was the village foreman's daughter. My cousin said that we were going to drink some alcohol. I don't usually drink but he drank a shot because it would be impolite to refuse. The girl started to make a tea, when I saw three Germans with guns through the window. So I told my cousin that we need to run away. I ran out of the building only to face Germans with their guns pointing straight at me. They were were shouting „Hande hoch!” and „Du bist Bandit!” They checked our belongings, they took my wallet and one of them punched him in the face so I fell down. I immediately stood up and started to run. I was running to the forest which was really far away. I was running through the fields with really high grass and they were shooting at me all the time. I think that the*

*fact that I didn't get shot was a miracle. I had to rest for a moment near the forest, but after that I went to a place where I knew a gun was hidden. I returned to the village, where my cousin still remained. I didn't think about myself, I needed to save him. When I got there, he was already taken. They took him to Rotunda, a temporary camp in Zamość. He died in the camp and a day later. It turned out that the village mayor's daughter told the Germans about our meeting, because she was a traitor. She was executed a couple of days later by my colleagues.*

**How did you manage to survive?**

*After the war I was arrested by Soviets in Zamość, where they interogated me. I got badly beaten. I got a death sentence there, and I was transported to Lwów from where I got transported to a concentration camp. That was on the 3rd of november 1944. I came back on the 13th of september 1956.*

**Can you tell us about some of your activities other than fighting?**

*Usually we trained in forests, but we left out shooting because it would be too loud and would give our position away. Sometimes we would hide in the forest and sometimes we would spend time in one of the houses in the village.*

*I was also in charge of protecting these areas in the forest where the British would drop equipment, food and other supplies.*

**What was your impression about the German army?**

*They had very nice uniforms. Normal soldiers were different from the SS and Gestapo who were extremely cruel and were killing people for no reason. There was a boy who was running to the forest and that was enough for them to shoot him. Whenever they saw someone running to the forest, they would kill him on the spot. They were very cruel.*

### **How did you feel about the Jews?**

*They were different. It is hard to talk about it. In my hometown, half of the population was Jewish, but I don't know much about them, because it was a different part of society. When I was in school, there were Jewish people, Ukrainian and Polish students. It was obligatory to learn Russian, because of all the Ukrainians. I had a lot of Ukrainian friends. I don't have too many good memories about Jewish people...*

### **You are considered a hero in Poland. Did you feel betrayed when the Russians came and you were sentenced to death?**

*I didn't believe this. It didn't make sense, because we didn't fight the Soviets. By that time they started to create the notion that partisans were connected with the Home Army and that they were connected with the capitalists which was absolutely not true.*

*The partisans around him were based in Polish intelligence but there were also many farmers. There were people from different walks of life and you can't say that they were connected with anyone. When I was caught, they were saying that I have some connections with the Polish go-*

*vernment in London and they called me a capitalist and a fascist.*

*I told them I was fighting Germans and asked them what were they doing? Then, one of them took his gun and put it to my chest and said that he would kill me, that I'm a capitalist and so on. They beat me for two days. I lost consciousness and my whole back was bloody. When I regained consciousness I was being transported to Lviv.*

### **Did you believe you would survive Siberia?**

*No I didn't think that I would. Also, when I was in Siberia, I had a little hope that I might come back. These two other men, who were sentenced with me, didn't come back. The interesting thing is that when I came back, most of my friends from the times of war and from the army, weren't here. Most of them ran away to the West. Only me, my brother and one other person remained.*

### **What kept you alive and motivated you to survive in Siberia?**

*It was just a will to survive. It was very hard, because for all these years while I was exiled, I was starving. In the morning we received 40 dag of corn bread which was very wet and of bad quality. And there was something they called a soup, but you can't really say it was a soup. It was more like hot water, sometimes with a bit of dried pepper inside. It was just like hot water.*

*We worked for twelve hours a day. Sometimes the temperature was -56 degrees so we had to work constantly, because if you stopped for a moment, you could easily freeze to death. People were moving all the time. My job was to split the ground*

*with a big hammer and when I was hitting the ground, but it wouldn't even budge, so I needed to this all the time. We had some coats but they were not good enough so we were very cold. There was a guard who was sitting by the fire all the time and was watching us from there.*

*Sometimes, we would see something edible on the ground so everyone tried to catch it as fast as they could. We ate worms, fleas and lice. There were some animals, like white rabbits and some kind of birds which helped us to survive if we managed to catch them.*

**What was the thing you missed the most back then?**

*I missed Poland and I also missed my girlfriend. When I came back, I couldn't find them, of course, because it's been so many years. Later I got married, had three children and they are all amazing. My wife is also an amazing person. After the war I went to school and I got a diploma in electromechanics and found work here.*

**How did you manage to come back from Siberia?**

*I was released, but they didn't let me do whatever I want. I needed to visit NKVD bureau once a week. I wasn't allowed to leave the area for more than 8km away. They gave me a job as an electrician. I knew that this is absolutely against the rules so I wrote a letter to the Polish Consulate that it cannot be like this. I was arrested in Poland, it's against international law. After eight months, I got a Polish visa to come back to Poland, but I also needed the Russian one to leave this place.*

*The process was not finished, because at this moment the repatriation has started. I was finally taken to Poland on 13th of December 1956. Usually, people would receive 1000 zloty to get a train ticket and some clothes. And so did I. I was also told to find job in my country and live there.*

*I found my sister's husband went to meet him. He was living in Zamość and working as an electrician. There was his family living here, his mother and father. His father died when he was 85 and his mother died when she was 107 years old. His sister died of lung cancer.*

**How did the government and people see you after you came back to Poland?**

*When I came back to Zamość, people didn't trust me, they were looking at me and calling me a Russian pig. One of the reasons for that was that during all those years in Siberia, I was living among the Russian people and speaking Russian, so my accent sounded a bit eastern. After some time, people could see who I was and it was not a problem anymore but it took some time. He has been accepted. Later, when he got his diploma in school, he started to work in energy sector. He was responsible for gas, hot water; they were building the canals, checking the cables. He had people working under him. In 1990 he started to have serious health problems with his kidneys and his heart, but he was still working, so his wife got angry and went to his workplace and said: „How much longer does he have to work? He has a lot of health problems and he can't work like this anymore” She was very angry. Because*

*of the things she said, I went on retirement. It turned out that they actually can find someone to replace me. I remember I got a nice goodbye dinner in a restaurant. From that time I have a war veteran certificate.*

**Who was the most memorable person you met during the war or your time in Siberia?**

*There are two of them who are still alive. One of them is in Tarnów and we are friends because we met in Siberia, working in the carbon mine.*

**What made you want to share your story in a book?**

*I wrote it because I didn't want people to forget about what happened. Some time after coming back to Poland, I joined the Association of Sybiraks / (an organisation for people who were exiled to Siberia). There I met a lady who had a typewriter and they gave me the idea that I should write all these things down, because I kept telling it to people. I made some notes and had a lot of papers on the topic, but there were some things I couldn't remember so well. Later, I combined all these notes together. People shouldn't forget about what happened at that time.*

**What are your opinions about Russians and Germans today?**

*They are human beings and all of them are unique people. There are good ones and bad ones, we can't speak in general about these things. There were NKVD and Gestapo who were very very bad. They were torturing, killing, doing violent deeds and it was insane what they were doing.*

*But if you're going to a normal person, a simple citizen of the country they are different. I had friends among Russians. Politics and simple people are two different stories. We cannot judge anyone in general.*

**Do you have any messages for the future generations?**

*The most important things in life are justice and truth. The things that are true should be recognized by people. It's also very important that poor people should get help and that we organise it in a way that people should live together as one and there are no poor people anymore. It's very important that people should treat each other like brothers.*

**Do you have any favorite medals?**

*The one that was given to those who were sentenced to death penalty and survived.*

**One more question: where, according to you, is the place the Amber Room is hidden (laugh)?**

*It's in Augustów (laugh).*

**Thank you for your time. It was really interesting talking to you.**

Interview conducted by:

Andrzej Smyk, Leon Bosnjak,  
Ivan Toshev, Anaxagoras Violaris,  
Milena Azovidou, Sven Batinic,  
Nikola Dolezalova, Pálma Engi

# Janina Jasina



*„If the truth wins,  
everything will go well.”*

We had the pleasure of conducting an interview with the 88 - years old Janina Jasina – a sister and friend of partisans. She greeted us calmly and with a huge smile and soon we felt like a bunch of children waiting for a tale from their favorite grandmother. Even though in some parts of the story her eyes were filled with tears, we were impressed by her strength and patriotism.

**How are you and what do you do nowadays?**

*I am 88 years old. I was born before the war, so I am a little bit tired now. I am already retired, but I previously worked in school administration and after that as an accountant. I got married in 1949. I met my husband on the way to Zamość and after the wedding we moved there. I have 3 children, 7 grandchildren and 6 grand-grand children.*

**Could you please tell us how was life like before the war?**

*I had a good life before the war. My parents had a farm and my father also worked as a potter (he*

*was building furnaces). I had two brothers. They were 11 and 6 years older than me. I also had an older sister. My sister was already married. I was attending school, so studying occupied most of my time. Our family was complete and my life was pretty ordinary.*

**Do you remember any favorite games or toys you had at the time?**

*There were no toys before the war. But my sister made me a doll from wood chips put inside a cloth. My entertainment was taking care of the cows because all of those who did that, gathered together, told stories, gossiped. We also played with sticks in imaginary fights. So it was fun when I took care of the cows.*

**When did you realize that there was a war going on?**

*At the time I lived in Stanisławka which is a village situated nearby Zamość. The area around was bombed at the very beginning of World War II. So that was very scary and couldn't hide my fear. Even a close friend of my father died during the bombings.*

**How did you find out that your brother – Tadeusz – is a member of a partisan movement?**

*Actually, we didn't know his secret until 1940. One day my mother visited him at his work place. His duty was to make wheels. She saw weapons there and realized that he was hiding them. She got very scared because the Nazi Germans could find them and that would become extremely dangerous for the whole family. So she took the weapons and hid them in a field. Tadeusz also had to work for Germans. That's why being a partisan at the same time made him even more at risk.*

**In what way did your family help the partisans?**

*As my brother was a member of the local movement against German occupation, we wanted to help as much as we possibly could. We usually managed to store food supplies at the basement and our mother prepared hot meals for the partisans. In addition, we provided them with some places for sleeping in our house. All in all, the whole family was involved in helping the partisans any way we could. Whether if it was a direct or indirect way.*

**During the 'visits' of the Nazi Germans – when were you afraid the most?**

*During their first „visit”, the Germans took all the people from the village in one place and they started asking if any of them is communist, but nobody answered. There was one man who tried to escape but they shot him. Next time they came to our house and took all the grain, so we couldn't make bread anymore. At first my mother didn't want to let them take it, so they hit her.*

**What kept your family strong and brave during the hardest moments?**

*Everyone was in danger at the time. We were all afraid because they took a lot of people to the camps. German soldiers took my sister's cow so we suggested to her to come back and live with us. The situation was hopeless but the important thing was we helped each other.*

**What was your perception on partisans?**

*They were all heroes because they were fighting against Nazi-Germans to protect their country. And that was really important for all of us.*

**Do you know any battles in which your brother took part in?**

*I don't know much about that, but I know that he was a part of Piotr „Podlaski” Złotaniec's unit which accounted for 110 men. This unit took part in the battle of Lasowce, where 25 young soldiers died, including my brother and cousin.*

**Did the war make you mature earlier than others?**

*I guess it did in a way. I didn't go to school at the time because of the war, so I didn't have a lot to do. My father started working for the Germans after my brother died, because we didn't want them to find out that he was a partisan and go after the whole family. My father died 3 months after my brother from a heart attack. I think it was very hard for him to work for the Germans considering that my brother died fighting them. Afterwards, when my brother and father died, me and my mom were left alone. We were in a*

*really tough situation because we didn't have anything to eat. We kept living and hiding in the forest, sleeping on leaf-covers. It was a very hard time for me. It was a tragedy and we didn't know what to do. We were very scared that some people from the village could still tell the Germans where we were and what we were doing.*

**Is faith an important part of your life and did it help you during the war?**

*Faith is really important to me and my family. I have always believed that if you ask for help, God will always help you. So it definitely helped me a lot during the war. I have a list of people who*

*are partisans and who died during the battle of Lasowce. I got it from the Home army. Among them were my brother and one of my cousins. I pray for them every year on 3 February-one day before the anniversary of the battle of Lasowce.*

**Did the deaths of these young people change your perspective on the partisan's resistance?**

*It did not change my mind. The partisan movement was very important for the fighting against Germans. Anyway, it was a very tough period, after the German occupation there was the Soviet one. Our soldiers came from Monte Cassino to the Ministry of security. But they didn't get the*



*treatment they deserved. On the contrary, they were treated like a threat to the country.*

**Can you describe the last day of the war and how you felt on it?**

*On the day the war ended, I remember waking up and going into the kitchen. The first thing I saw was a woman from the Soviet army who was cleaning her gun. At the beginning I did not know if the Soviets were good or bad, I just knew they were fighting against the Nazi-Germans. However, after a while I realized that it was just another occupation. Soviets sent many people to Siberia, even those from my area, they stole a lot of valuable things and they used to ask Polish people to sign a declaration of collaboration. Those who didn't were usually killed. There was not much of a difference between the two occupations. Actually when my daughter grew up, she wanted to go to a university and study mathematics. She was very smart. But she needed a special document about her father to apply to the university and because he was a taxi driver, which is part of the private business area, the Soviet government didn't allow it.*

**Just a side question. Do you happen to know where the amber room is?**

*I do not know where it is. However, I know that the Germans were taking a lot of valuables from Poland and transporting them to Germany. When I was in Dresden I saw an exhibition with many golden things. There was written „Polish gold” on it. Nazi-Germans stole gold not only from Poles but also from Jewish people who were much richer than us.*

**Could you tell us your message to the world?**

*It is wonderful to be here with all of you – young people from different countries. I actually love all people. The most important thing I want to tell you is that I think the world should be build on truth. If truth dominates, most aspects of life will be all right. I would also like to add that you should trust God because his endless power will help you to solve all the problems you could possibly have.*

Interview conducted by:

Karolina Szczepanik, Gergana Georgieva,  
Enrica D'Alessandro, Martin Karen, Savannah  
Maria Pál, Anna Jónás, Riccardo Belometti

# Władysław Bednarczyk



*a boy, a partisan and a soldier*

From a 15 year old boy in the small town of Izbica to a proud 21 year old sub-lieutenant, Władysław Bednarczyk survived through one of the worst periods of human history. His memories are many and priceless. More than 70 years later, with his strong, disciplined military tone, he decided to share them with the world, reluctant to get carried away by the old wounds.

**Can you introduce yourself?**

*Hello, my name is Władysław Bednarczyk and I am a former partisan and a retired Polish Army soldier. I was born on May 20th 1924 in Izbica – a small town situated around 20 kilometers away from Zamość. As for the present, I hold the position of the president of Polish Society of War Veterans and the Former Political Prisoners, I've also been tangled into the endeavors of the main management in Warsaw since 1999.*

**What were you doing before the war?**

*Before the war started on the 1st of September 1939 my childhood was very hard and our living*

*conditions were unfriendly and poor. Both of my parents were labour workers. I went to school for seven years and I started working when I was 12: my first job was wood-cutter, and later I was a clinker(bricks maker). I have two sisters and one brother who worked as a clinkers too.*

**What events were occurring by the time the war started?**

*On the 8th of September, the Polish Army retreated from the front. Around the 10th of September, air strikes were executed against my town. I recall the foreboding atmosphere of the day before the attack; the scary feeling of watching people's glowering faces, as the noises of recon aircraft sent to map the area reached their ears. Foreign soldiers entered the town of Izbica on the 19th of September. It was terrifying due to the act of the oppressors treating us no better than mere objects and the sheer, violent brutality instilled into every action of theirs. There's a single memory of an SS soldier with the surname of Engel shooting people that were fleeing lingering in my mind.*

**How were the Jews treated during the war?**

*The Jews made up for 80% of the village's population, they also belonged among my classmates and people I got to meet on a daily basis. When the Germans came, they brought great violence along. The Jewish village of Izbica ended up destroyed, deprived of any of the remains of what it once was. Another memory I recall vividly is that of a Jewish girl – she was no older than 15 – having ended up cornered by the Ukrainian soldiers, she desperately tried to escape. Predictably, the oppressors took her down with a single shot.*

**What were the vows in partisans way?**

*They took place during July 1941 in the forest, in the organization of Bataliony Chłopskie (Peasant Army). The main goal of the members was to help civilians, for example if they wanted to run away to the forest.*

*I felt very honored to join the partisans because it filled me with hope. I felt needed and relevant, allied to the greater cause of regaining independence for my country. This position of a partisan came with a lot of risks, because of the aggression of the oppressors. There was a situation when the SS soldiers in Izbica, especially one called Engels, shot people like rabbits.*

**How did the youth react to the war and do you consider that your generation sacrificed itself for the happiness of the future generations?**

*The reaction of the youth was immediate and they started creating the partisan and rebel movements. The youth during the war was united, not like today in Poland. I think that this unity*

*can be treated like one of the defining factors of gaining independence and they felt important and honored.*

**How did you get involved with the partisans?**

*My father was a partisan as well, so I was familiar with partisans, it was really a common thing to join them. Everyone capable of fighting joined the partisans and the resistance movement. Actually the underground movement and the partisans were very well organized, they felt determined to regain independence and be organized to fight the best they could.*

**We heard about displacements of people in Poland done by the Nazi Germany, how were they done?**

*The way of displacing people was very brutal and vulgar. The German army encircled the whole village and used dogs. The soldiers were usually Ukrainian convicts recruited in the German army. They gave people 15-20 minutes to pack their belongings which should weight no more than 20 kg each.*

*Jews were transported to Bełżec, Sobibór and Auschwitz concentration camps by trains in very bad condition, usually old wagons that were really filthy. There wasn't any bathroom; there was only one bucket in a wagon of 50 people. These wagons were previously used to transport calcium and coal so that the victims could die more quickly.*

**Do you have memories of any friendships during the war?**

*Most fond memories of the people are from after the war. During the war helping was the most important thing. In July of 1945, when the enemy left, I was helping a lot of people; we made dugouts in the forest to provide shelter for them. But, I also remember a lot of corpses, of both humans and animals.*

**How did you get involved in the army?**

*I volunteered! The 10th Independent Brigade was formed in Izbica, so I joined it. I had a 3 months working period I could use before enlisting, but I joined the army anyway.*

**How did you feel about joining the army, what was army life like?**

*I felt very pleased and proud about joining the artillery; I got my uniform and we were always 5 km behind the line. So army life wasn't so bad.*

**What was it like when Russians came?**

*Russian soldiers were ruthless, they raped and stole from the other people, we were really surprised with such human behavior and we were terrified by that.*

**What do you remember about the end of the war and the fall of Berlin?**

*I wasn't in Berlin at that time, the artillery was moving through Bernau. We liberated a concentration camp there. People inside were very happy to be found by us, but they were barely alive and they couldn't express their relief because they were exhausted. My unit was really glad about liberation of the camp. It was during the last 3 weeks of the war and we knew it would*

*have all ended soon. In the end of May we still heard some shooting, this was confusing to us since the war ended.*

*Afterwards, Polish people started settling in German villages, and the Germans weren't very happy about that, they tried to remove them from there. So, our job was to protect those Poles, and the Germans gave up soon.*

**Did you see your family during the war?**

*No, I didn't have the time to even think about it back then.*

**Then when did you reunite after the war?**

*We got one week off. The journey to my family took me 3 days, which means 6 days of traveling in total to get back. Nobody from the family expected to see each other again; they didn't expect that so many of us would survive. It was a relief to see them all in one place again. The meeting took place in our family home after the liberation.*

**What was your rank?**

*I was a sub-lieutenant on a 152mm howitzer (cannon), I also have 3 Russian medals, because we were fighting Germans alongside the Red Army in 1944.*

**Was it possible to think about love during the war?**

*We didn't think about love during the war, but after the war I had an acquaintance in Izbica and we got married in 1958. She died around 20 years ago. I have two sons and one daughter.*

**What moment from the WWII did you find most memorable?**

*When the Germans stormed into our village and set it aflame. They were killing people, and the flames were unsettling. I remember Engels standing on the road, shooting down people who were running across the road.*

**What is your opinion about the occupant countries now – has your attitude towards them changed? Also, do you have any premise to convey for the European youth?**

*I ceased blaming them. I just want to see all the slavic nations standing united and sharing brotherly love instead of creating futile divisions within themselves and their cultures. I find it vital for our nations after the harsh events of the war.*

**What gave you strenght during the darkest moments of the war?**

*The value of faith contributed to my strenght. After the war passed, I began to notice my appreciation for being able to continue with my further education.*

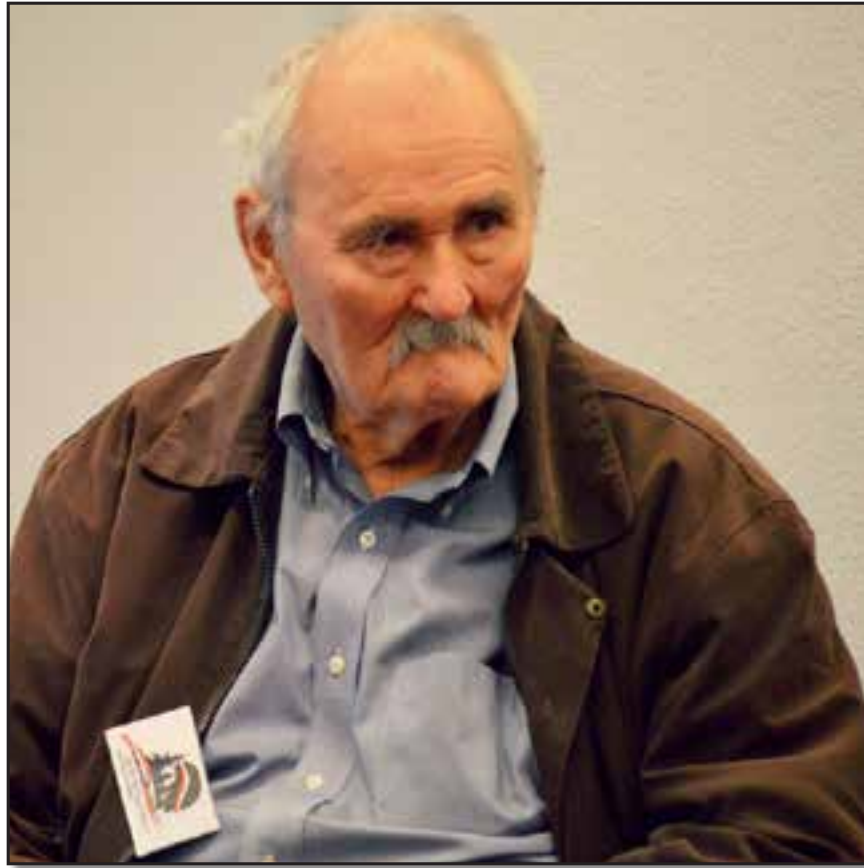
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*Polish Peasants' Battalions monument in Zamość*

# Narceyz Kruk



*a partisan and an artist*

Narczyz Kruk was just an ordinary Polish kid born in 1927 in Zaleszczyki, a territory which, as he frustratingly mentioned, now belongs to Ukraine. He grew up in a family of five - his father was a renowned soldier both before and during WWII. His brother and sister also actively participated in the war. As a typical young boy he spent his childhood years playing fighting games near the railway tracks such as „Tarzan” and „Indians”. Little did he know at the time that a game like that may soon come to life. Apart from that he also enjoyed reading and his teacher quickly recognized his excellent artistic skills.

He remembers clearly how one day it all changed. It was a typical September day and he was playing in the fields when a storm of German planes started opened fire. There were high-flying ones which were dropping bombs which exploded just a few meters away from him. There were also low-flying planes which were shooting chaotically at

everything in their line of sight. Narczyz recalls how some bullets passed so close to his feet that he could almost feel them. Finally, he was able to hide into the vast potato fields. When everything cleared out, he and his family were forced to move away from this area. They switched homes a few times, sometimes even sleeping in almost completely destroyed houses. In order not to be recognized by the Germans, his father threw all his medals and uniform into a river. They were later transported to Krakow, from where they decided to head to Zamość as his grandfather was a forest engineer there.

The terrible war situation and his strong patriotic feelings motivated him to join the Home Army in 1943. Although he had not yet reached the minimal age for joining the army, due to the desperate need for more soldiers, he was accepted right away. He took the vows simultaneously with 200 people and was assigned the alias „Sokol” (Falcon). He

actually chose the nickname by himself because of his fast reflexes and excellent eyesight. „Not anymore, though.”-he added. Narcyz had already received some basic military training from his father but it needed to be refined. At first, they formed small groups, in which young people were sharing practical military knowledge. Afterwards he joined a forest school for officers where he received a proper and extensive training. The vast forest was the only place where they felt protected but life there was harsh. Holes in the ground, covered with tree branches, functioned as beds. Whenever it was raining they were drenching in mud. It was especially tough in the winter due to the freezing temperatures. In order not to freeze to death, a fire was kept alive during the coldest of nights. If they were close to the fire they could feel their skin burning and if they would go just a little further away from it, they could feel the cold biting. The level of solidarity was high as they were receiving support in the form of food, guns, uniforms and other supplies. They were usually fighting with German guns, captured during their operations. Occasionally they received air support from in the form of weapons from the British. Their movement from one zone, place or territory to another usually happened in broad daylight. Every action had to be executed during

the night and had to be completely finished before sunrise, so proper preparation and strict organization was extremely important.

Narcyz, for instance, remembers clearly one such operation that he was assigned to. It was a seemingly simple task involving the transport of a few nurses from a village. He and his friend were supposed to wait for the nurses to come in a specific place in the outskirts of the village. At the time they had no idea how dangerous it would become. Coincidentally, his friend's mother was living in this area and he went to see her, leaving Narcyz alone in a zone with German presence. On that very day it seemed as if the weather itself is against him. He had to spend hours, waiting in suspense under a waterfall of heavy rainfall above him. With every minute that passed Narcyz became more and more anxious and frightened that something wrong has or might happen. He was conflicted on what the proper thing to do is: should he go and see what happened in the village or should he stay at his post all by himself. In the end of this prolonged and suspenseful day, after what seemed like a century of waiting, reinforcements finally arrived.

While all of this was going on, Germans troops had almost completely surrounded the area. Narcyz and his comrades saw through

the thick fog and heavy rain that a vehicle was approaching. At first, they believed it to be a German tank but they soon realized that it was an armored car, equipped with a radio station, which was transmitting messages of great significance. Swiftly and soundlessly they ambushed the car and killed the two men aboard it. They took the radio transmitter, which was a big and heavy box, and grabbed what equipment they could salvage. After this lightning-fast operation they saw other vehicles heading that way and decided it was best to leave the area immediately. Due to the fact that there were Germans all around them, they had to go back and forth to find the most optimal path back to the safety of the forest. Having completed the capture of the radio and successfully evaded the German grasp, they found comfort among the trees once again. However, this was short-lived as the very next morning they were faced with yet another threat: Soviet planes were flying in the area above them. At the time they didn't know which army the planes belonged to, so they were trying to stay low, be silent and try to prevent being seen. The fortunate thing is that, as it was later revealed, nor did the pilots know who was down on the ground.

This, however, was not the most dangerous situation that our hero found himself in. His nearest death experience actually

happened shortly after the end of the war. It was 9th of May 1945 when he was caught by a squad of twelve people belonging to the Ministry of Public Security (UB). All 12 of them started hitting him with the stock of their weapons. Although the pain was close to unbearable he resisted falling down on the ground because he knew that it would mean the end of him. When they discovered that his surname was Kruk they kept him alive in order to use him to get to his father. („My father's name saved me"- Narcyz says.) He was then sentenced to 3 years of prison time and was placed in solitary confinement. In order to give out the location of his father, people were being killed in front of Narcyz with the intention to intimidate him and plant fear in his heart. Apart from these psychological attacks, he was severely tortured. No matter what methods they were using, he stayed strong and gave out no information about his father. After 4 months of suffering in prison he was finally released thanks to amnesty. For Narcyz, this was the moment when he felt that the war was truly over.

Not wasting a second after his release, Narcyz ran straight home, barefoot and without the proper clothes. His house was, ironically, 150 meters away from the prison. It was a warm September evening as he entered his house through an open window. He

swiftly changed clothes and ran straight to the park with the hope of seeing some familiar faces. Much to his surprise, when he reached the park, the only person he saw there was one of the 12 men who beat him up. The man opposite of him said: „So, you got out?”. This unexpected meeting and provocation left Narcyz scared and confused. He felt that even after everything that he has been through, he still couldn't escape the clutches of war and captivity.

It took some time for Narcyz to truly leave the horrors of war and imprisonment behind him but the reunion with his family helped him to overcome his feeling of insecurity. He mentioned that he would never forget the following words that his mother told him: „Enough with the war, go study”.

The end of the war opened to Narcyz some new opportunities. He accepted his mother's advice, turned back to his passion and started to study at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw. Narcyz was proud that he took part in the renovation of ruined buildings in postwar Warsaw. He was extremely glad to hear that we had watched the animated movie that he made in 1959 – „W kropli wody” („In the Drop of Water”). Although we found some motives that can be related to war, he offered a simple interpretation: it is a didac-

tical movie, made in a specific style (similar to the soviet style of animation) and plainly shows the biodiversity of one drop of water.

As a conclusion of his story, Narcyz Kruk wanted to share with the generations to come, an advice, which he believed can prevent similar tragedies in the future: ”It's crucial to remember that we are all human, we shouldn't let ourselves be divided by nationality or religion. What truly matters is that we manage to see the good in people!”

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# Józef Łaba, Tadeusz Kopec



*„Partisans were of a highest value to our country because they weren't afraid of shedding their own blood in order to protect it”*

At the beginning of our trip to the vivid history we were really excited to hear the story of two veterans in the city of Zamość. We did not know what to expect but the narration we heard got us involved and was very educational. Learning history from books can sometimes be tiring and boring. However, these two gentlemen, Mr. Kopeć and Mr. Łaba managed to represent a piece of their life, so passionately, that even a person who would be completely ignorant about history, would love to be a part of this experience. Mr. Kopeć and Mr. Łaba have so many memories and stories about life during the war that they could keep you listening to them for days, because of the emotional way they convey their message. These ex-partisans are proud, but at the same time concerned with what they had done in favor of their country, friends and families, their pride, freedom and independence. We, as a group, are really proud that we had the opportunity to listen to

them and we tried our best to present their stories altogether with the emotions we felt so you can get deeply involved.

Our first speaker Mr. Kopeć, then 18 year-old boy, has been raised by his family with strong patriotic sentiment. After the September campaign ended, he needed to help his family to survive in the difficult situation. Repressions of people were getting worse each day and it became evident that he was going to be taken to a forced labour camp. With the help of his father, who worked as a railwayman, he managed to escape from the train, and find shelter in the local forest. The only logical step after the escape was to follow his cousins' footsteps and join the partisan movement. He found them in forests of Solska Wilderness. On the 12th of December 1941, Tadeusz Kopeć took his vows and became a member of the ZWZ – AK with the nickname „Bratek”. He was an important part of a long and bloody freedom fighting

movement. Poland needed him and he was ready to serve his country. Young Mr. Kopec was a pre-war scout which was extremely helpful in his partisan days. Operations in which he participated stretched from demolishing German farms, blowing up German trains, fighting the UPA troops. He survived the German occupation just to end up under Soviet regime, which would chase, imprison and kill partisans. Afraid of sharing his role in the partisan movement, Mr. Kopec decided not to speak of it. He remained silent for 45 years. After the war, he had a quiet and pious life, settling with his family in Zamość in 1957 where he worked as a railwayman. After the fall of communism in Poland, Tadeusz „Bratek” Kopec decided to share his incredible and rich partisan story.

The second speaker was Mr. Łaba who was barely 10 years old when the war broke out. Today, it is incomprehensible to think of a 10 year old boy being involved in the harsh reality of a war. Often being a witness of shootings, Mr. Łaba experienced in very early age the sense of fear for his life, several times narrowly escaping certain death. His age sometimes proved to be very useful. It made him less suspicious to the occupator which helped him pass information easily between partisans and their local collaborators. Mr. Łaba survived the war and later joined

the organization called „Freedom and independence”, whose purpose was to fight the increasing influence of the communist regime. Due to his close connections with the partisans he was a victim of the regime that severely neglected his civil rights. He wasn't allowed to continue his education or serve in army and was forced to work in a mine and later on the military construction sites to support his family.

These are their stories.

**- Hello, we are a group of youngsters from several European countries and we are here to learn from you. Can you tell us few things about yourselves?**

**Mr. Kopec:** *I'm 95 years old. My father was from the railway-men family. When the WWII started I was living in Kowel.*

**Mr Łaba:** *I was one of the youngest witnesses and participant of the WWII. During the occupation I was a messenger. Whatever they gave me I was passing it from one to another as a messenger.*

**Mr. Kopec, earlier you said that you were close to the borders when the war started, and you were approximately 18 years old. Am I correct?**

**Mr. Kopec:** *Yes, that's correct.*

**When did you realize that the war had began?**

**Mr. Kopec:** *After the 17th of September 1939 the Soviet army entered Poland and we were happy*

*because we thought that they would help us against the Nazi Germans. They came on beautiful horses, we gave them flowers and we were excited. Later we found out that their plan was different, and Soviets started with the replacements. People were taken to Siberia, and one of them was my father.*

### **How and why did you join the partisans?**

**Mr. Kopeć:** *In that time it was very likely that I would be replaced or killed, so I joined the partisans. My father was a partisan already, and all the members of my family as well. I took an oath to become a partisan, and I joined the sabotage actions. Germans were transporting wood to Germany, and one of our tasks was to mine train stations and railways to interrupt this action as much as possible.*

**Mr. Łaba:** *It was very difficult for a kid to live at that time, and because I was very young, I didn't think about if it was scary, or dangerous. In some way I feel honored I was accepted in such a young age.*

### **You told us you escaped from a train. Can you tell us more about that story? How it began and how it went on?**

**Mr. Kopeć:** *I was in Kowel with my father and we ran away through the green border towards Włodzimierz because Soviets were arresting people. In Włodzimierz people were living on the train stations and the Germans were coming there to find slave workers. They took me to the train together with all the young boys who were supposed to be taken to Germany as expendable workers. I escaped from the train to Chelm.*

### **What was your most vivid memory of your participation in partisan movement?**

**Mr. Łaba:** *Partisans were preparing sabotage actions like exploding the bridges on the railways. Because of that Germans were hiring some people to protect the bridges and the railways. I'm not sure what kind of people they were, Turkmenistan or something like that I think. The mined area near the railway was not that difficult to clean up for the Germans. The Germans were taking off the railway lines in order to clean the ground, and then they were installing the railway again, so the train could continue to work. With the bridges it was much different to clean the mines though. It usually took around 40 hours to clean up the bridge. The people hired to protect the bridges were mercenaries in German uniforms, just a bit different hats than regular German soldiers. The mercenaries were going to the villages and abused the girls, so the partisans decided to take revenge. In the village there was windmill, and the windmiller had a helper. The helper was 16 years old and he wanted to kill the German. Two Germans were walking on the road and the distance between them was very short, maybe 8 meters, maybe less. 6 partisans together with the windmiller's helper, killed one of the Germans but the second ran away. The partisans took the uniform and all the useful equipment from the dead body, and they buried him in the ground. Then a lot of Germans came and they were shooting at everyone, and everyone was running away. Me, my father and my grandfather too. The bullets were flying close to*

*my face and they were making a terrifying whistling sound.*

**Mr. Kopeć:** *After destroying a train station we were retreating with the rest of my unit, and everyone was armed. There were three divisions of Soviet soldiers from near Moscow coming for us, and we were running and hiding in the swamps. They surrounded the forest, I watched a lot of people die. And then the Soviet came in and we were still running away, unable to fight anymore. While running away from in the forest, we witnessed a massacre. I dug out a hole among the swamps in order to hide.*

**How did you feel when you realized the war was coming to an end?**

**Mr. Kopeć:** *In 1944., by the time the war was ending we were very unsure about lots of matters and we stayed in hiding, armed.*

**And when has the war actually ended for you?**

**Mr. Kopeć:** *It was in, 46., when I started to work. We got the official information about the end of the war and went to reunite with our families.*

**Mr. Łaba:** *I was very keen on being up to date with the surrounding world, so I got the info about the end of WWII. Mainly thanks to the rumors. But the war never really ended. Had the Russians given a chance to the partisans, our fate would turn out very different. The partisan movements weren't strong enough to face the Russians, and all the partisans revealing their identities kept getting arrested.*

**How did being able to finally admit that you were partisan feel like?**

**Mr Kopeć:** *I always knew I was doing the right thing for Poland. I was perfectly aware of the fact that if the time of liberation finally came, I would be one of those responsible for it. I was a partisan and a Pole, my every action felt natural and I knew my country needed saving.*

**Describe your life in Socialist Poland.**

**Mr. Kopeć:** *Just like the rest of our family, I worked as a railwayman. I worked there for 40 years. After 1989 I decided to reveal my identity.*

**How did you feel when the Red Army stormed into Poland?**

**Mr. Łaba:** *The Red Army came to Poland on the horses at first. People were cheering, because they thought we would fight the Nazis together. After 1945 they started locking patriots in prisons and sending them to Syberia. Everything turned out different than we expected. They formed special police forces to enforce their ways. Children who had parents in partisan groups weren't able to go to school and especially to universities. Only those who signed a special contract of cooperation could feel safe. I was to be sent to army, but I ended up as a miner. A couple of months later I was sent to work on a military bas construction. If the Russians didn't leave a part of their army to guard the border, we would regain our independence without their interference.*

**How do you feel about the partisans today?**

**Mr. Kopeć:** *I knew I was a Pole and not a traitor. I fought for my country with pride and now I'm noticing that Poland reaches higher and higher levels in terms of development.*

**After these 70 years what is your opinion on the Nazi and Soviets?**

**Mr. Kopeć:** *Only now did our country start to create our own history. The communists dealt a whole lot of damage to our country and left it almost completely ruined. I still haven't fully forgiven them. The Germans also changed their way of thinking now and the damage done by them was of lesser extent, but I need some more time to get rid of all the hard feelings completely.*

**Mr. Łaba:** *The communists have always been hostile and they continue to remain so. They are only waiting for Poland's moment of weakness in order to strike once more. The same can be applied to the Germans, though Poland is very small and surrounded by threats from each side. The Germans also don't respect us and don't give proper financial support to Poland.*

**Were you aware of other partisan and resistance movements in other countries? If so, did these various groups had any connections?**

**Mr. Kopeć:** *No. We never got any information regarding that. No other country was as brave as Poland and I think there were no other partisan movements. We should be proud of our patriotism. No other country stood up to the challenge of fighting and resisting the enemy as we did.*

**Do you think that younger generations are aware of your activities and merits contributing to your country?**

**Mr. Kopeć:** *I have visited 14 schools under the patronage of the Home Army. We convey and spread our stories to the attendants of those schools. They ask us questions which we answer and try to explain everything in the best way possible. We love and respect all the people in the world who are kind at heart.*

**How do you both feel when you put on your uniforms and medals today?**

**Mr. Łaba:** *We feel very moved, because of our ranks and all the contribution in a fight for the greater cause. We seek respect from other people and better help from our country that we fought so desperately for.*

**Could one of you briefly tell us something about your medals?**

**Mr. Łaba:** *I've got one gold medal for all my merits. The gold medals are of the highest rank. I contributed to creating a monument and a chapel commemorating the partisans and those lost to the battle for liberation. We also have medals for creating the monuments being part of the association taking care of the war veterans. Medals were given to us only after the 1989 and the fall of communism.*

**Can you define for us, in your own words, what does a term partisan means to you?**

**Mr. Kopeć:** *We were people who went to fight the oppressors of our country. Our hearts were filled*

*with patriotism from the very beginning. Instead of running away or siding with the enemy, we remained brave and faithful to our country. We had our enemies, but we also had our friends. We felt obliged to help the other countries in need of it. Partisans were the highest value of Poland and weren't afraid to face the bloodshed in order to protect our dearest country. All the partisan members and their actions should be mentioned and talked about. After 50 years of misleading information or complete lack of it, their stories need to be told.*



The impression we got from the veterans who wanted to share their story with the younger generation was absolutely fascinating and inspirational. The knowledge we got throughout the conversation will last in our minds for much longer than anything we would learn otherwise as we could get the full experience of the war presented to us in a really breathtaking way. The message conveyed, was full of emotions, all from fear to happiness. We appreciate we got to know such people whose story was so emotional and unforgettable. We will give our best to share their heroic story.

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Zamojskie Centrum Wolontariatu

Zamojskie Voluntary Service Center  
invites for the Youth Exchange

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# Let Me Tell You a Story II

A Tale from The Forest

Zamość, Motycz Leśny, Poland  
**06-16.04.2016 r.**

**Partner Organizations:**

- Zamojskie Voluntary Service Association / Poland • Co-Efficient / Hungary
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