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The CROSS & Tableau

*The Warsaw Flights
Commemoration Organising Committee
has the honour to invite*

Councillor I. MOGASE.

.....

*to be present
on Saturday, 5th September 1998
at the ceremonies to commemorate
the 54th anniversary of the Warsaw Rising
and of the Relief Flights in 1944.*

- 11:00 *Religious service at the Katyń Memorial,
James and Ethel Grey Park, Melrose Estate,
Johannesburg (see map enclosed), followed
by wreath-laying.*
- 12:45 *Reception at the South African National
Museum of Military History, 22 Erlswold
Way, Saxonwold, Johannesburg.*

*R.S.V.P. by 24.08.1998
Warsaw Flights Committee
P.O. Box 653109, 2010 BENMORE
Tel: (011) 784-5491, Fax: (011) 784-5493*

*Die Warskou Vlughte
Herdenking Reëlingskomitee
het die eer om*

.....

*uit te nooi om teenwoordig te wees
op Saterdag 5de September 1998
by die seremonies ter herdenking van
die 54ste verjaarsdag van die Warskouse
Opstand en Voorraadvlugte in 1944.*

- 11:00 *Erediens by die Katyń Gedenkteken James
en Ethel Gray Park, Melrose Estate,
Johannesburg (kaart ingesluit), gevolg deur
'n kranslegging.*
- 12:45 *Onthaal by die Suid - Afrikaanse Nasionale
Museum vir Krygsgeskiedenis, Erlswoldweg
22, Saxonwold, Johannesburg.*

*R.S.V.P. voor 24.08.1998
Warskouse Vlugtekomitee
Posbus 653109, 2010 BENMORE
Tel: (011) 784-5491, Fax: (011) 784-5493*



POLAND
1944

INVITATION

What happened at Monte Cassino, by one who was there

From WACLAW SZYMANSKI, Johannesburg:

AS a former member of the Polish 2nd Corps, I participated in the fourth battle at Monte Cassino from May 11 to 25, 1944.

My knowledge is not based on any reports or books but on personal experience. I was there.

I cannot leave unchallenged statements made by Mr Overy (June 7). They contain inaccuracies.

Firstly, the fourth battle did not start on May 18 but on May 11 at 23:00.

Secondly, at no stage of the battle was the abbey "stormed" by Allied troops.

Our battle orders were to outflank Monte Cassino defences forming part of the Gustav Line from the north, to occupy a series of heavily fortified hills and so isolate Monte Cassino, and to destroy German positions and force the Germans to withdraw.

This was achieved by Polish infantry by nightfall on May 17. Germans withdrew from all held positions during the night of May 17/18, to take up new defensive positions on the "Hitler Line."

Polish infantry bypassed Monte Cassino and pressed on with the attack on the next objective which was Piedmont. It was all over for the Germans at Monte Cassino.

A small detachment of the Polish 12th Podolski regiment simply walked across from Point 593 to the abbey and hoisted the Polish and British flags above the ruins. This took place at 10:30 on May 18, 1944.

So, one of the greatest battles of World War II ended with resounding victory for the Allies, although at a very heavy cost in human life.

Unfortunately, there are no cheap victories in any war.

Lastly, I would be interested to know if your correspondent served in the army at Monte Cassino during the battle, or what sources he has used.

Casualties by Army and Nationality, 11 May-5 June 1944

	Killed	Wounded	Missing	Total	No. Batts	% Rate Amongst Inf. Coys
Eighth Army						
British	1068	3506	208	4782	21	31.6
Canadians	789	2463	116	2358	12	29.8
Poles	860	2822	97	3779	12	42.5†
Indians	?	?	?	?	9	?
TOTAL	2707+	8791+	421+	10,919+	54	AVGE. 34.6
Fifth Army						
British	520	2385	450	3355	18	28.6
Americans	3667	16,153	1204	20,024	66	41.1
French	1751	7912	972	10,635	45	32.1†
TOTAL	5938	26,450	2626	34,014	129	AVGE. 33.9
GRAND TOTAL	8645	35,241	4787	44,933	183	AVGE. 34.2 RATE

But even after such a sacrifice sufficient Germans had escaped, bloodied but unbowed, to hold the Allies at bay on yet another fearsome defensive line in the mountains. The Allied fighting troops had been brought to the very extremes of physical and mental suffering. Icy cold, rain, sleet, snow, mud, hunger, numbing fatigue, the crash of shells, severed arteries, exposed innards, exploding brains, and fear, gut-wrenching, bowel-moving fear - these had been the motifs of Cassino. Yet amidst this infernal ambience men had attained epic stature, keeping tight hold of

† The figure for the whole Cassino/Rome campaign was 105,000 casualties, this figure including the whole period of the Anzio beachhead. It is impossible to establish an accurate comparable figure for the Germans, though it was at least 80,000.

‡ The actual Polish and French casualty rates were probably much higher as both found it extremely difficult to get replacements.

The War Office Records Centre (Polish)



Bourne Avenue,

HAYES,

Middlesex.

December, 1963.

Ref: 3/40195 (WORC)

Dear Sir,

In reply to your recent letter, the following are the particulars of the military service of:

~~30040195~~ Sergeant Officer Cadet Waclaw Franciszek SZYMANKA
born on 17th September, 1923 at Grodno, prov, Bialystok, Poland.

parents: Waclaw and Stanislawina nee Ignatowska

Marital status (while serving): Single

Nationality: Polish *) Religion: Roman-Catholic

Civil occupation (prior to Army Service): None

Service with the Polish Forces under British Command:-

from 1st April, 1942 to 2nd April, 1947

Service with the Polish Resettlement Corps: Enlisted on 3rd April, 1947

relegated to: finally discharged on 3rd September,
Class "W" Reserve on 5th April, 1948 (honourably discharged) 1948

Former Service and History:- Deported by the Russians from Poland to U.S.S.R.
1940-1942. Released on amnesty, joined the Polish Army in U.S.S.R. on 26.2.1942.
After crossing with his unit the Russo-Persian border, came under British command
in Middle East on 1.4.1942. Served with 7th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment in Middle
East: 1943-1944 and in Italy: 1944-1946 Transferred to United Kingdom, arrived on
8.12.1946, joined and served with the Polish Resettlement Corps as above. Took
part in the Italian operations from 18.2.1944 to 2.5.1945.

Medals and Awards:-

Polish:- Cross of Monte Cassino

British:- 1939/1945 Star, Italy Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939/1945.

Conduct:- Very Good

Remarks:- *) Granted Certificate of British Naturalisation
No. BNA 37079 on 28.3.1955.



Mr. W. F. Simmonds,
1303, Matrosberg.

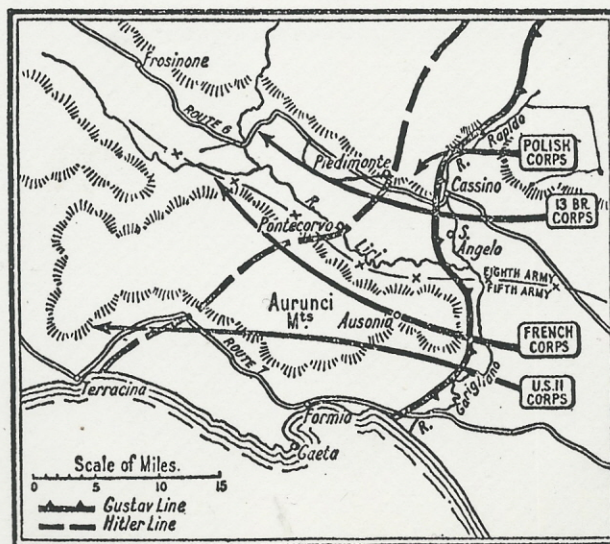


Monte CASSINO-1944

The Compiler of this Album, dedicates it to the fallen Soldiers at MONTE CASSINO in 1944. When the Polish Corps relieved the 78th. Division in the mountains behind the Monastery a strict silence was imposed on them so that the Polish language would not give away the fact that they had now arrived at the front line. To those taking part on the night of May 11th. 44 it was the moment of truth. The Polish Corps, operating from the mountain North of the Monte Cassino, would tackle the heights that had defeated the Indians in February 44. But the Polish Division, consisted only of two brigades. Every Pole who had reached the Polish Corps of Gen. Anders had endured a personal epic to get there. What was certain, was that these men would give everything they had willingly taken on the unpleasantest of the many unpleasant tasks that this offensive entailed. Gen. Anders planned to overcome this difficulty by attacking all these German positions simultaneously so that they would be too engrossed with their own troubles to be able to support each other. On the night of May 11th. the two Polish Divisions began to pick their way through the boulders and thickest, across the gullies, pushing forward for the rest of that night, they fought hand in hand as successive waves of them flung themselves at point 593, and Phantom Ridge. Both Div. had reached their preliminary objectives they were on their own. When daylight came, a handful of survivors of the Carpathian Div. had a foot hold on 593 and a small group of the Kresowa Div. clung hasardously to Phantom Ridge. By their selfless sacrifice the Poles converted that grim mountainside into a MEMORIAL to soldiers every where. MONTE CASSINO, so costly in human life and suffering and thus deprived of the lost of the full VICTORY that would have made it worthwhile, was in the end little more than a VICTORY OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT.

Stefan Mathews
 Stefan Mathews, A.M.I. (Mech.) E.
 Jhb. 5th. Sep. 1998.

Statment by Soldiers who participate



FOURTH BATTLE
 Fifth and Eighth Armies break through and begin successful advance on Rome

AT THE KATYN MEMORIAL, James & Ethel Gray Park, MELROSE, JHB



South - African and Polish National Anthems - Boksburg Caledonian Pipe Band.



Arrival of VIP's Gen.Earp & Wife



Mr.Sadowski and U.K. Attache Brig.M.L.Wildman Bsc.Eng.
L.H.Defence Attache Commander D.J.Allen



Councillor I.Mogase - German Attache
Col.K.H.Kroeger and Hungary Charge D'Affairs Mr.J.Gyuris



Opening : M.C.- A. Romanowicz -



Religious Service. (Rev. Dr. J. Jaworski),



Congregation assembly



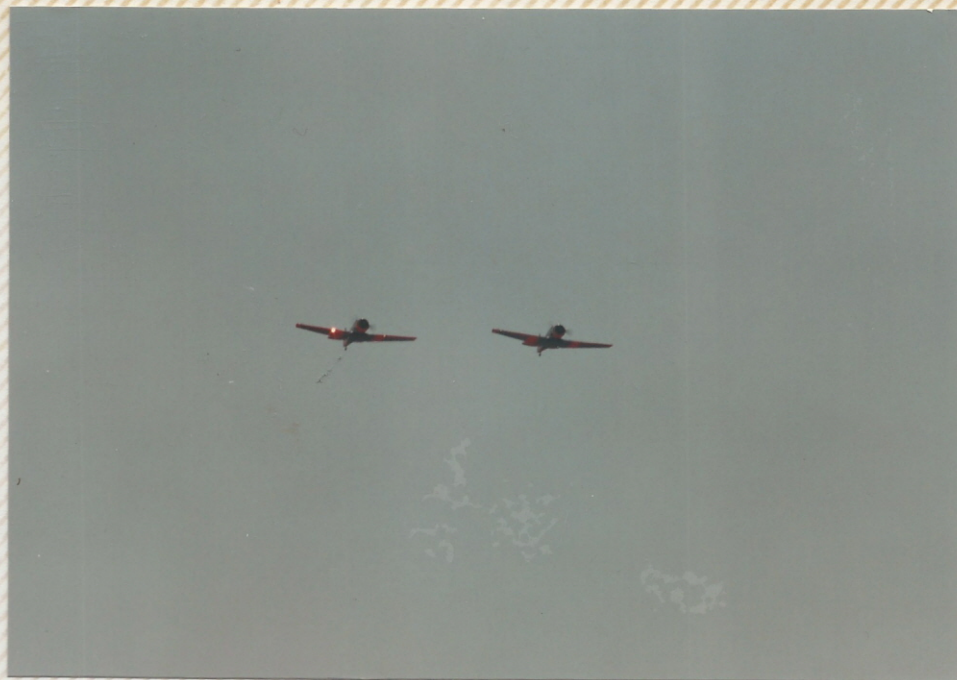
Rev. Dr. J. Jaworski, Father Bogdan Wilkaniec and friends.



Moment of silence in honour of SA airman deceased last year: **Lft. L. Rabie**



Commands to sentries and bugler, the "Last Post" starts.
Silence for 2 minutes starts.



Flypast of S.A.A.F. Museum Aircraft.



The Mayor of Johannesburg Metropolitan Transitional Council-Councillor I.Mogase-Col.K.H.Kroeger and Hungary Charge D'Affers Mr.J.Gyuris.



2 minutes silence ends,



Recitations by Polish girls, Maria Makhabane

Wreath-Laying ceremony commences .



THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND

- UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE IN PRIME
MINISTER'S OFFICE - MR. M. NOWAKOWSKI
& H. E. AMBASSADOR PROF. Z. KURATOWSKA



THE REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY

- CHARGE D'AFFAIRS - MR. J. GYURIS



SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE
& SOUTH AFRICAN AIR FORCE

- LT. GEN. W.H. HECHTER SD, SM, MMM



U.K. DEFENCE ATTACHE

- BRIG. M.L. WILDMAN Bsc Eng.



REPRESENTING US DEFENCE ATTACHE

- COMMANDER D.J. ALLEN



CANADIAN FORCES ADVISER

- COL. M.A. WANSINK



GERMAN DEFENCE ATTACHE

- COL. K.H. KROEGER



POLISH COMBATANTS ASSOCIATION

- MR. A. PROTASEWICZ



GAUTENG COMMAND

- COL. P. BURGER



31 SQUADRON, S.A. AIR FORCE

- CPT. R.H. Mc GREGOR



34 SQUADRON, S.A. AIR FORCE

- WARRANT OFFICER - 1 - M. VAN HEERDEN



178 SQUADRON RAF

- CPT. G. ROSENTHAL DFC



148 SQUADRON, ROYAL AIR FORCE

- MAJOR. P. MC LEAN- Chairman of RAF Association



1586 SQUADRON RAF (Polish)

- MR. S. CZUBA



No 10 BOMBER GROUP USAAF

- - COMMANDER D.J. ALLEN



POLISH COUNCIL IN SOUTH AFRICA

- MR. J. SADOWSKI - Chairman



POLISH ASSOCIATION IN SOUTH AFRICA

- MRS. L. WIERZBICKA - Chairlady



POLISH AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

- MR. M. MICHALSKI



POLISH ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION

- MR K. GOLDA



S.A. AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

- MR. J. TURVEY



RAF OFFICERS CLUB

- WING COMMANDER S.R. WHITING, D. S. O.



BELGIAN SAAF & RAF EX-SERVICEMEN

- COL. C.C. HUYGHE



ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION

- MR. J.T. Mc ALLISTER



GUNNERS ASSOCIATION

- LFT. COLONEL - R. LUDEMAN, SM,MMM, JCD.



SAPPERS ASSOCIATION

- BRIGADIER S.F. GROBBELAAR



M.O.T.H.

- MR. A. BODEN



POLISH CLUB - PRETORIA

- DR. L. BOBAK



POLISH-SOUTH AFRICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - Chairman - MR M. SEKULA



POLISH ASSOCIATION - VAAL TRIANGLE - MR. J. CHMELA



POLISH ASSOCIATION - KWA-ZULU-NATAL - MR. A. MISIEWICZ



FAMILIES & FRIENDS



Orders to sentries

**WARSAW FLIGHTS COMMEMORATION
5-TH SEPTEMBER 1998
ORDER OF WREATH-LAYING**

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND | - UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE IN PRIME
MINISTER'S OFFICE - MR. M. NOWAKOWSKI
& H. E. AMBASSADOR PROF. Z. KURATOWSKA |
| 2. THE REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY | - CHARGE D'AFFAIRS - MR. J. GYURIS |
| 3. GREATER JHB METROPOLITAN COUNCIL | - COUNCILLOR I. MOGASE |
| 4. SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE
& SOUTH AFRICAN AIR FORCE | - LT. GEN. W.H. HECHTER SD, SM, MMM |
| 5. U.K. DEFENCE ATTACHE | - BRIG. M.L. WILDMAN Bsc Eng. |
| 6. REPRESENTING US DEFENCE ATTACHE | - COMMANDER D.J. ALLEN |
| 7. CANADIAN FORCES ADVISER | - COL. M.A. WANSINK |
| 8. GERMAN DEFENCE ATTACHE | - COL. K.H. KROEGER |
| 9. POLISH COMBATANTS ASSOCIATION | - MR. A. PROTASEWICZ |
| 10. GAUTENG COMMAND | - COL. P. BURGER |
| 11. 31 SQUADRON, S.A. AIR FORCE | - CPT. R.H. Mc GREGOR |
| 12. 34 SQUADRON, S.A. AIR FORCE | - WARRANT OFFICER - 1 - M. VAN HEERDEN |
| 13. 178 SQUADRON RAF | - CPT. G. ROSENTHAL DFC |
| 14. 148 SQUADRON, ROYAL AIR FORCE | - MAJOR. P. MC LEAN- Chairman of RAF Association |
| 15. 1586 SQUADRON RAF (Polish) | - MR. S. CZUBA |
| 16. No 10 BOMBER GROUP USAAF | - COMMANDER D.J. ALLEN |
| 17. POLISH COUNCIL IN SOUTH AFRICA | - MR. J. SADOWSKI - Chairman |
| 18. POLISH ASSOCIATION IN SOUTH AFRICA | - MRS. L. WIERZBICKA - Chairlady |
| 19. POLISH AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION | - MR. M. MICHALSKI |
| 20. POLISH ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION | - MR K. GOLDA |
| 21. S.A. AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION | - MR. J.TURVEY |
| 22. RAF OFFICERS CLUB | - WING COMMANDER S.R. WHITING, D. S. O. |
| 23. BELGIAN SAAF & RAF EX-SERVICEMEN | - COL. C.C. HUYGHE |
| 24. ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION | - MR. J.T. Mc ALLISTER |
| 25. GUNNERS ASSOCIATION | - LFT. COLONEL - R. LUDEMAN, SM,MMM, JCD. |
| 26. SAPPERS ASSOCIATION | - BRIGADIER S.F. GROBBELAAR |
| 27. M.O.T.H. | - MR. A. BODEN |
| 28. SOUTH AFRICAN LEGION | - MAJOR BLAKE |
| 29. POLISH-SOUTH AFRICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE | - Chairman - MR M. SEKULA |
| 30. POLISH CLUB - PRETORIA | - DR. L. BOBAK |
| 31. POLISH ASSOCIATION - VAAL TRIANGLE | - MR. J.CHMELA |
| 32. POLISH ASSOCIATION - KWA-ZULU-NATAL | - MR. A. MISIEWICZ |
| 33. IN MEMORY OF MR. HERBERT BROWN | - MR. DICK BROWN & Family |
| 35. FAMILIES & FRIENDS | |

**PROGRAMME
OF THE
54-TH WARSAW FLIGHTS COMMEMORATION
SATURDAY, 5 -TH SEPTEMBER 1998**

1. AT THE KATYN MEMORIAL, James & Ethel Gray Park, MELROSE, JHB

- 10:45 Arrival of VIP's
10:48 Congregation seated
11:00 Opening : M.C.- A. Romanowicz - Chairman of the Commemoration Committee.
11:01 **Moment of silence** in honour of SA airman deceased last year: **Lft. L. Rabie**
11:02 **South - African and Polish National Anthems - Boksburg Caledonian Pipe Band.**
11:06 Religious Service. (Rev. Dr. J. Jaworski), 11:26 Service ends, orders to sentries & bugler.
11:26 Commands to sentries and bugler, the "Last Post" starts.
11:28 Silence for 2 minutes starts.
11:29 - Flypast of SAAF Museum Dakota DC-3 Aircraft..
11:30 2 minutes silence ends, Reveille, orders to sentries & bugler.
11:32 Celebrants final blessing.
11:34 Wreath-Laying ceremony commences . -(see order list).

**2. AT THE FUNCTIONS HALL of the MUSEUM OF S.A. MILITARY HISTORY,
22 Earlswood Way, Saxonwold, JHB**

- 12:30 Congregation in the Hall
12:45 Opening M.C.- A. Romanowicz - Chairman of the Commemoration Committee
The M.C. opens the proceedings and calls on the Mayor of Greater Johannesburg Metropolitan Transitional - Councillor I. Mogase to deliver his message.
2.1. Message by the Mayor of Greater Johannesburg Metropolitan Transitional Council - Councillor I. Mogase
The M. C. introduces the Guest Speaker - Lt. Gen. W.H. Hechter SD, SM, MMM.
2. 2. Address by Chief of the SA Airforce - Lt. Gen. W.H. Hechter SD, SM, MMM.
The M.C. calls on Mr. Marek Nowakowski - Under-secretary of State in Polish prime minister's office to deliver his address.
**2.3. Address by Mr. Marek Nowakowski - Under-secretary of State
in Polish prime minister's office**
2.4. Presentation of the map of aircraft crash sites to the Museum of S. A. Military History.
Col. J. van Eysen to Cpt. Tony Speir
Social gathering until 15:00.



Opening M.C.- A. Romanowicz - Chairman of the Commemoration Committee



**Message by the Mayor of Greater Johannesburg Metropolitan Transitional Council -
Councillor I. Mogase**



Address by Chief of the SA Airforce - Lt. Gen. W.H. Hechter SD, SM, MMM.



**Address by Mr. Marek Nowakowski - Under-secretary of State
in Polish prime minister's office**



**Presentation of the map of aircraft crash sites to the Museum of S. A. Military History.
Col. J. van Eyssen to Gen. Pretorius.**



**Col. J. Van Eyssen Explaining the Map of
flights of no return to Gen. Pretorius**



Thanks for the Memory, by Gen. Pretorius.



At last the foe & victor met all is forgiven
L.H. German Defence Attache, Col. K.H. Kroeger
R.H. night pilot Col. Jack van Eyssen.



Once they were Hitlers pride, Focke -Wulf,FW 190A-6/R6 and
now they are in Jhb.Museum RSA. 305-8th.UNIT,Messerschmitt ME 262B-1a/U1
July 1944.





Polish Diplomat Counsellor M.Bark
& Mr.Marek Nowakowski-under-secretary
of State & frends.



Mr.S.Czuba & Mr.Waclaw Szymanski
veteran of Monte Cassino.



Ger.Col.K.H.Kroeger & Bel.Col.C.C.Huyghe.



Father Dr.J.Jaworski with Polish Ambassador
Prof.Dr.Z.Kuratowska and Friends.



Reminiscence with Dr.H.Schulze



Captain & Mrs.G.Rosenthal.



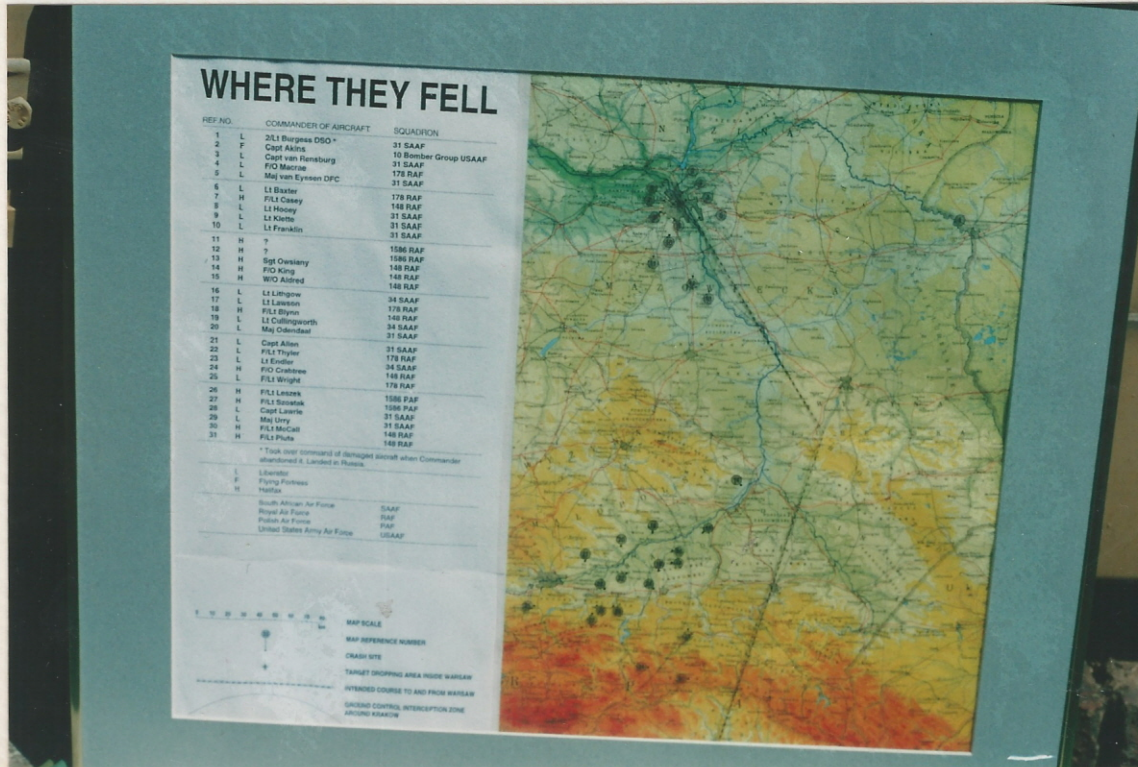
Mr. J. Sadowski and friends.



Two Col. where North-central Africa-
and South met.



Col.Kroeger and Cap.T.Speir



MAP:-where they fell.

