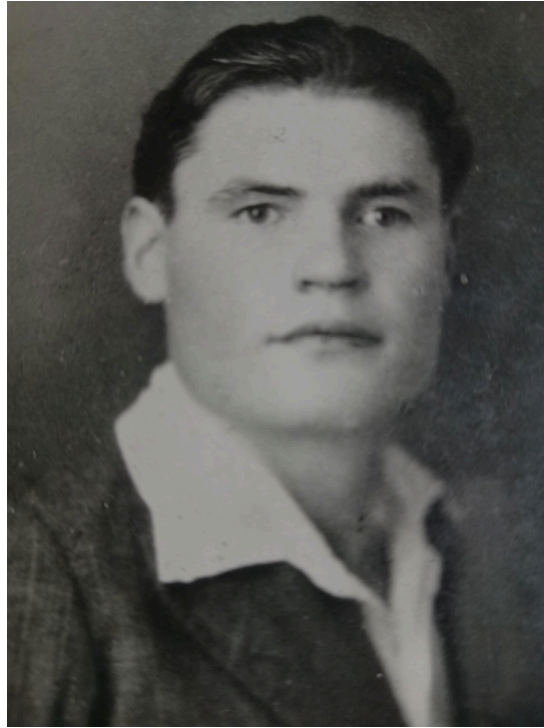


MARK GIGIERA (MARK GILBERT)
29th December 1923 - 25th December 1993



MARK GIGIERA. MY ARREST

In September 1939, when I was just 15, the Germans arrived in Luboml. They stayed for only three days. This was shortly followed by the Russians who invaded and occupied Luboml. They were friendly, and asked if I was interested in going to Russia for training. I went. I had no idea what was happening, but with hindsight, thought I was being recruited for the NKVD (later, called the KGB). After a short time, I asked to go home. The NKVD said 'No'. I went anyway. When I got home, there was no one I knew left, except my step father, Zotik Gigiera, who was kind to me.

I stayed in the area for a short time with Zotik and his family. I knew the NKVD would come to get me and so I made a bid to escape by attempting to cross the nearby state border between the USSR and German controlled Poland. I was arrested by the Luboml Regional Department of the NKVD on 20 June 1940.

Архівна довідка

По документах Державного архіву Волинської області встановлено, що:
- за нелегальний перехід державного кордону зі сторони СРСР на сторону Германії був арештований Любомльським РВ НКВД 20 червня 1940 року «Гигера Марко Зотович; так у документі», українець, 1923 року народження, уродженець с. Нудизхе «так у документі», житель с. Запілля Любомльського району Волинської області. 29 листопада 1940 року ув'язнений в виправно-трудова табір терміном на 5 років. Амністований 02 жовтня 1941 року;

- станом на 04 липня 1940 рік «Гигера Зот Дорофеевич; так у документі», українець, 1900 року народження, уродженець с. Гуменці, житель с. Запілля Любомльського району Волинської області мав такий склад сім'ї: «дружина Олена Пархомук, 38 років, син Іосиф, 14 років, син Василій, 11 років, син Іван, 8 років, син Николай, 5 років, мати Марина Силук, 58 років, нерідний син Марко, 1923 року народження; так у документі».

Підстава: 4666, оп.2, спр.3038, арк.1,8,8зв.,16,24,25.

Letter from Volyn Regional State Administration, State Archive of Volyn Region in Lutsk

TRANSLATION 18/6/20 State Archive letter

According to the documents of the State Archive of Volyn region, it was established that:

- for illegal crossing of the state border between USSR and Germany he was arrested by the Luboml' Regional Department of the NKVD on June 20, 1940 "Gigera Marko Zotovich; so in the document", Ukrainian, was born in 1923, was born in the village Nudzhe "so in the document", the inhabitant of the village Zapillya, Lyubomlsky district, Volyn region.

On November 29, 1940, he was imprisoned in a labor camp for 5 years. Amnestied October 2, 1941;

- as of July 4, 1940 "Gigera Zot Dorofeevich: so in the document", Ukrainian, was born in the village Humentsi, an inhabitant of the village Zapillya, Lyubomlsky district, Volyn region, had the following family members:

"his wife Elena Parkhomuk, 38 years old,
son Joseph. 14 years old, - took part in war, - was killed, 200. 1925. son Zapillya
son Vasily, 11 years old, 1929 - 2018
son Ivan, 8 years old, 1932
son Nikolai, 5 years old, 1935
mother Marina Silyuk, 58 years old,
illegitimate son Marco, was born in 1923, 17 years old

so in the document "

Reference: fond 4666, part 2, case 3038, pages 1,8, 8, line from top 16,24, 25.

P.S. I'm not sure that you still need it, but just in case

Рам'ят народи
(National Memory)
Also in 1947
Private-military

MARK GIGIERA. KHARKOV PRISON

Following my arrest on June 20, 1940, aged 16, whilst trying to escape the Russian invaders and accused of being in violation of the state border, I was convicted on November 29 1940 for st. 80 of the Criminal Code of the Ukrainian SSR for 5 years of VTT. My punishment was served in the Onega VTT. This was in north west Siberia in the Arkangel region.

I was first transported to the enormous Kharkov prison (north east Ukraine). The prison was overcrowded, with many men to a cell and only the floor to sleep on. There were no blankets or bedding. At night the men lay down on the floor, packed so tightly that movement was nearly impossible. We would remain still until someone felt an irresistible urge to turn over. We would then, all sit-up, turn over and settle down again. In answer to the question, "How could you bear such overcrowding?", I would say "It was the Russian winter and the warmth of our bodies was the only heat we had. Without it, we would have suffered an even more intense cold". From time to time the numbers dropped as some men were removed to be transported elsewhere. At these times, we looked forward eagerly to the arrival of the new inmates who would surely arrive to build up the numbers again and make the place warmer. There was a surprising tolerance in these circumstances. At the same time, there were all sorts of gangsters who gambled with anything, even cutting off fingers when they lost a bet. After the war, I met a man in Nottingham once, who had been in this prison at the same time, and remembered certain instances.

In common with many of my compatriots, I loved the game of chess. During my time in Kharkov Prison we found that if we chewed bread to a paste, we could model tiny chessmen which would harden. Once the set was complete, all we had to do was to scratch the board on the floor and we had a luxury that would bring much pleasure into our dismal lives. This lasted a while and then we were served an unfair injustice as the guards chose vindictiveness by confiscating the little chessmen and scraping out the board with their boots.

There was a summary trial (Nov 1940, I was just 16). It was there that I received my sentence of a term of 5 years hard labour. I never saw any judges, nor any court of law and was never given a chance to answer the charge that I was an enemy of the Russian people! I was sentenced to a goal term in Onega gulag camp in NW, Siberia.

Details of my arrest are recorded as:

From p402 of this: <http://www.reabit.org.ua/files/store/Lutck-3.pdf>

"ГИГЕР (ГИГЕР, ГІЗЕР) Марко Зотович,
1923 р. н., с. Нудиже Головнянського (теп.
Любомльського) р-ну, мешк. у с. Запілля
Любомльського р-ну, українець, із селян,
без певн. роду занять, п/парт. Заарешт.
20.06.1940 р. Звинувач. у поруш. держ.
кордону. ОН НКВС СРСР 29.11.1940 р. засудж.
за ст. 80 КК УРСР на 5 р. ВТТ. Покарання
ідбував у Онезькому ВТТ. Амністований
02.10.1941 р. як пол. громадянин. Реабілітований 20.12.1989 р. прокуратурою Волин.
обл. (Держархів Волинської обл., ф. 4666,
оп. 2, спр. 3038; Архів УСБ України у Волинській обл., ф. п., спр. 3836; о. ф., спр. 22799)."

This translates as:

"GIGER (GIGER, GIZER) Marko Zotovich,
1923, s. Nudizhe Golovnyansky (Lyubomlsky) district,
inhabitant in the village of Lyuboml district,
Ukrainian, from the peasants,
without definite kind of occupation,
Arrest. June 20, 1940. The accuser. in violation. state
border. ON NKVD of the USSR 29.11.1940, convicted.
for st. 80 of the Criminal Code of the Ukrainian SSR
for 5 years of VTT. Punishment
served in the Onega VTT,
Amnestied October 2, 1941 as a floor. citizen.
Rehabilitated on December 20, 1989 by the Volyn Prosecutor's
Office.
reg. (State Archives of Volyn region, f. 4666,
op. 2, file no. 3038;
Archive of the USB of Ukraine in the Volyn region, f. n.,
file no. 3836; at. f., file no. 22799). "

MARK GIGIERA. ONEGA VTT, SIBERIA

Following my arrest whilst trying to escape the Russians I was incarcerated in Kharkov prison and sentenced to 5 years hard labour. We were eventually transported by slow, overcrowded, uncomfortable train wagons from Kharkov to Onega, Siberia. The journey took a long time, and many were ill and some died.

In the summer in Siberia, being in the Arctic Circle, there was 24 hour daylight, and midges and mosquitoes. This alone was a personal hell to deal with. The work was hard labour, cutting down trees in the forest by hand saws and moving them with man power. Work in the forest was all manual. There were no mechanical saws, it was done with axes and 2 man saws, and we were skillful at bringing down trees exactly where needed. Work was seven days a week.

Life in the labour camps of the Siberian forests was hard. There was a fearful brutality. The Russians could have borrowed Dante's gloomy message at the entrance to Hell, "Abandon hope, all ye who enter here", because it was the unmistakable purpose that all who belonged should lose their will to oppose. I have never forgotten my own introduction. We were told that to attempt to escape was certain death because "...if we and the dogs don't catch you, the bears will". I remember the terrible day when I and my fellow prisoners were returning to our sleeping quarters after a hard day's work. We filed past some benches on which lay a sickening sight. On looking closer, we realised we were looking at what was left of a small group of Latvians who had decided to make a bid for freedom. It need only be said that the dogs had taken them and the torn bodies were laid out as a warning to anyone thinking of escaping. This dreadful picture stayed with me but I knew I had to make my own attempt at escape.

At this time I suffered from a gum disorder caused by the poor diet of a thin soup and scraps of bread. The quantity of food was given according to how much we did. I was in danger of losing all my teeth. Fortunately, there was a dentist serving a sentence, who was able to treat me in a very basic way, by making me massage my gums alternately with hot and then cold water. It had the desired effect, and I didn't lose them. Many of the prisoners were much older men who had and hadn't committed offences. I was one of the youngest, and most of them were as kind to me as circumstances permitted.

There was an Indian in the prison. This seemed very strange and his situation must have been frightful. I never found out why he was there because the poor man could not speak a word of any of the languages spoken there and he made no attempt to communicate. He had simply retreated into his own private hell. A very sad and lonely figure.

Whilst working in the forest, I was working out a way to escape from Siberia. An epic journey given how long it had taken to get there. It had to be foolproof, as failure meant being torn apart by the dogs. It was all about survival. I had learnt that if the dogs attack, wrap your jacket around your arm and give that arm to the snarling dog when it jumps up. Then slash its belly from underneath with the other arm. All very well if there is only one dog to fight off!!

MARK GIGIERA. ESCAPE FROM ONEGA VTT. SIBERIA

Following my arrest whilst trying to escape the Russians I was incarcerated in Kharkov prison and sentenced to 5 years hard labour, Onega VTT, Siberia. Whilst working in the forest I made my escape.

There was a river with a hollow under the bank and under tree roots. I had discovered it by accident whilst working. I took my chance, and disappeared whilst at work, knowing the others would cover for me as long as possible. I spent a couple of days hidden in the watery hollow, knowing they would search for me. Eventually, I left the shelter and went as fast as I could. I came to a single track railway in the forest (I knew it existed as the timber was moved by train from the logging area to a mill), and followed it for a bit. A small goods train came along slowly. I hid. There was only an old man driving it. Shortly, the train came back with the same old man. This time I didn't hide. The train stopped, and the old man realised I had escaped. He said he too was a prisoner, and had been in Siberia for 20 years, and didn't ever expect to be free. Recognizing my youth, he told me to get on the train, and took me as far as he could to get me away from the area. As he had been a prisoner for so long, he was trusted, and took the cut trees to a mill somewhere in the forest. This suited him as he had a certain amount of freedom. I was grateful and relieved to get away. The old man gave me as much advice about location as he was able and we parted.

I walked for days in the forest. Alone in the wild, I had to forage and fend for myself, sometimes with little success. I came across a very primitive village, where the inhabitants had not seen an outsider for many years. They didn't know about Stalin or the war. The language was old fashioned and difficult to understand. They sheltered me for a short time, gave me some food and on I went. I travelled roughly south and gradually came to the thinning out of the forest, and isolated habitations. I begged for food and shelter and was given whatever the impoverished people could spare. It was in this part of my life that I experienced the worst hunger. Prison and camp food was poor in quality and quantity but at least I was given something to eat, however meagre. I had no idea where I was or what to do, so I just wandered on.

One day I arrived at a village and a market. Among the goods were miserable bunches of herbs, dried up vegetables, threadbare clothes and worn out shoes. I wondered what I could sell. Suddenly a brainwave struck me. I could sell my underpants!! Having discretely taken them off, I proffered this worn out merchandise. It seems unbelievable but they were snapped up. An old woman, satisfied herself that the quality was good enough and went home pleased with her bargain. I was able to buy a small loaf of bread that kept me going for another day or two.

Wandering cold and desperately hungry one moonlit night, I heard the sound of a large animal moving about nearby. I stood still, wondering what it could be - a bear? wolf? large cat? My first priority when I planned my escape was to equip myself with a tool come weapon. This was a small wood-man's axe from the tools used by the prisoners in their

forestry work. This had been carefully hidden and jealously guarded until the time came to go. I prepared to defend himself now, but was surprised and relieved to see an old donkey plodding into view. Even though I had a great love of horses and their equine cousins, which stemmed from fond memories of the family horse at home, this was no time for sentimentality. All I could think about was juicy steak, food! I began to stalk the donkey which stopped, eyed me suspiciously and side-stepped my clumsy attempt as I approached. The wise old donkey knew my intentions and needless to say, he won the day and I once again went hungry. In later life, I could smile at this silly scenario in which I was never going to win.

The hard fact of survival when life gets hard and starvation comes knocking is that you eat things that in an ordinary life would seem distasteful and even disgusting. You can't afford to turn down any food, and you can't be choosy on how you obtain it. It can be the difference of life or death.

One day, I was so very hungry. I found some onions and ate them raw whilst crying. In later life, with the luxury of a full plate every day, I could look at the humour in this very sad situation.

I came to a railway, and followed it to a small town. There were people waiting for a train, but no one knew if it would come today, tomorrow or next week. Eventually it arrived. The train was full of fleeing refugees. People were clinging all over the train. I got on and rode the roof for a while. I got off at a station and was told it would leave in 10 minutes, but it left without me. I travelled on so many trains, a nomadic refugee, without any real destination, and the only purpose, to survive. I don't know exactly where I went, but it seems to have been generally south with variations. I must have been in Moscow, only the station, because I recall what an enormous palatial place this was. It was filled with refugees at night, all trying to sleep, but two or three times a night, cleaners came round and washed all the marble floors. There were gangsters stealing from the refugees. One young woman stood with a bag between her legs. She put her arms up to fiddle with her hair, and her attention was on someone at a distance. A man came up stealthily behind her, and gently eased the bag from between her legs. There was a mesmerised audience who did absolutely nothing about it as they were scared of the man. At one point I was on a train of refugees, and curled up to sleep at the back of the luggage rack. When I woke up, the train was full of soldiers.

The harsh winter came. I could normally find something to eat, however small. There was an old Jewish man and his nephew, Lange was their name. They had been rich, but they were totally unable to fend for themselves. I helped them a bit. We found some sort of shelter, and I used to go foraging. The old man was ill. I needed to go further afield for a few days in the search for food. When I returned, the old man was dead and buried. Someone suggested digging him up, as he had been buried in a good coat. I do not know what happened to the nephew.

Whilst in Russia, by chance, I met my half brother, Mietek. I was refused entry onto a train. Mietek was on that train and recognized my voice and I was allowed entry. A jubilant moment for both of us and miraculous to both arrive in the same place at the same time. We were pleased to see each other and to know that we had each survived the gulags, but eventually we went our own way. Mietek's own 'hard labour' had been building railways. He was traumatised by his experiences. Today we would term this as post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). So shocked and horrified by it, he would never discuss his wartime experiences with his family in Argentina.

I travelled south (along with everyone else) and came to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. The two places I remember by name are Samarkand and Tashkent. The people in the south had not been quite so badly affected by the war, although they were poor. They lived in the winter, mainly on dried apricots. I managed to beg some, and I made friends with a boy about my own age who had TB. He and his older brother helped me.

On another occasion, whilst on a train, everyone had dysentery which is spread by poor hygiene and sanitation and causes fever, intestinal cramps and painful and severe diarrhoea. There were people queuing to go to the toilet and as there were insufficient toilets also hanging off the train with the help of others to do one's business and then again joining the queue in preparation for the next incident. Certainly no dignity there and the smell was excruciating. However, we were a people used to having no privacy or dignity, but we had a will to survive.

As I recount this next incident I shudder at the thought of what could have happened. I was approaching a railway line and saw a hut with a light on in the distance. I walked to this and had desperate hunger where survival depended upon getting food. So great was my desperation that I thought I could kill in order to get food. I opened the door and the man inside smiled at me and then he shared his food and helped me get onto a train.

When the Poles were released from Siberia they set up recruiting stations, and all who enrolled for service, and their families were taken south to Iran. I was in Uzbekistan when I heard. On 12 April 1942, aged just 18, I reported to the Army Organization Centre in Kermine (Navoiy) Uzbekistan where, despite my weakened state I was declared Fit Cat "A" and recruited into the Polish Army. I recall the only real test for acceptance was to make the sign of the cross. If it was made in the Catholic way as against the Orthodox you were in. I was in.

MARK GIGIERA. JOINS THE POLISH ARMY

In reality, the Polish army in the USSR recruited all those that had been deported from the Kresy area of Eastern Poland by Stalin's regime to Siberia and who had been released upon the Amnesty (or in my case - escaped). This included the minority groups including the Ukraines and Jews who Stalin labelled as Russians wanting them to remain in Russia.

My Army records show I enlisted in the Polish Division of the British Army on 12th April 1942, and was discharged on 12th November 1947. I fought with my unit, alongside the allies, under British command in the 2nd Polish Corps (fondly known as Anders Army), attached to the British 8th Army.

On 17 Feb 1942, Stalin agreed to allow the Polish Army to move to Iran. This was, as part of the allied occupation force there. We, the recruits and many escaping civilians were taken across the Caspian Sea to Iran. The ship was filled. We were relieved to leave the horrors of the Soviet Union. Our experiences of hard labour and starvation in Siberia had been horrendous and although we were going to fight a war, we were heading to freedom. There was a change of mood in Persia. It was exotic and there was food and shelter.

15/8/1942- My army records say; 'together with the Polish Army Units, evacuated to Iran, thereby came under British command'. I was in the Polish 11 Corps, 5th Kresowa Infantry Division. Most of the Polish 11 Corps came from my homeland, Poland's prewar Kresy or Eastern Borderlands.

Food was short, but better than in Russia. Training began. Being young, I soon recovered my health, but some of the older men struggled. I was selected for extra physical training and succeeded. Around August 1943 we continued to be moved south, through Syria and Palestine. We were transported through Iran in huge army lorries through the mountain ranges where roads were highly unsuitable. Many trucks fell over the edges of gorges. The convoys never stopped, as the falls were so great it was presumed everyone was dead in the lorries. We stopped for short times in Syria and Palestine, where we were permitted to go to Jerusalem which we enjoyed. A group of Jews who were in the army planned to desert in Palestine and asked me if I wanted to join them. I declined their offer and soldiered on – literally.

The Army was very short of Army Officers as there had been mass executions of this class of people at the beginning of the war in the Katyn massacres. I believe my blood father was killed by the Russians in one of these massacres. The army kept asking for volunteers to go for training. There were few suitable recruits. Eventually we moved to Egypt, and by this time were fit for active service. The invasion of Italy had started. February 1944 – We were shipped across the Mediterranean to Italy in a convoy of very full ships. The shipping course lay close to the North Africa shore, avoiding German bombers based on Crete.

We landed at Taranto. I was in the south at Campobasso for a short time, where I made friends with an Italian girl. Her family were farmers and made me welcome. Her father didn't like me wearing shorts which were army issue. The Italians in general liked the Poles. We were there to fight for them and we shared the same Catholic religion.

Training and preparation for fighting continued. We advanced north. The terrain was increasingly difficult with mountains and fast flowing rivers. We continued along the coast towards Pescara and across to Monte Cassino.

At the time of the Monte Cassino battles I was in the Polish 11 Corps, 7 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment from 3/3/1943 to 6/6/1944. I was awarded the medal – Monte Cassino Cross number 35881.

In July 1944 we moved east for the Battle of Loretto. We were gaining ground towards Ancona where the objective was to secure a safe route for provisions. The fighting was brutal. I witnessed many horrific injuries and deaths. It really was horrendous. I recall at one time climbing a cliff whilst being shot at. I had a good friend, Karol Zucharski, who was killed in action on 17 July 1944. His name can be found on the war memorial website.

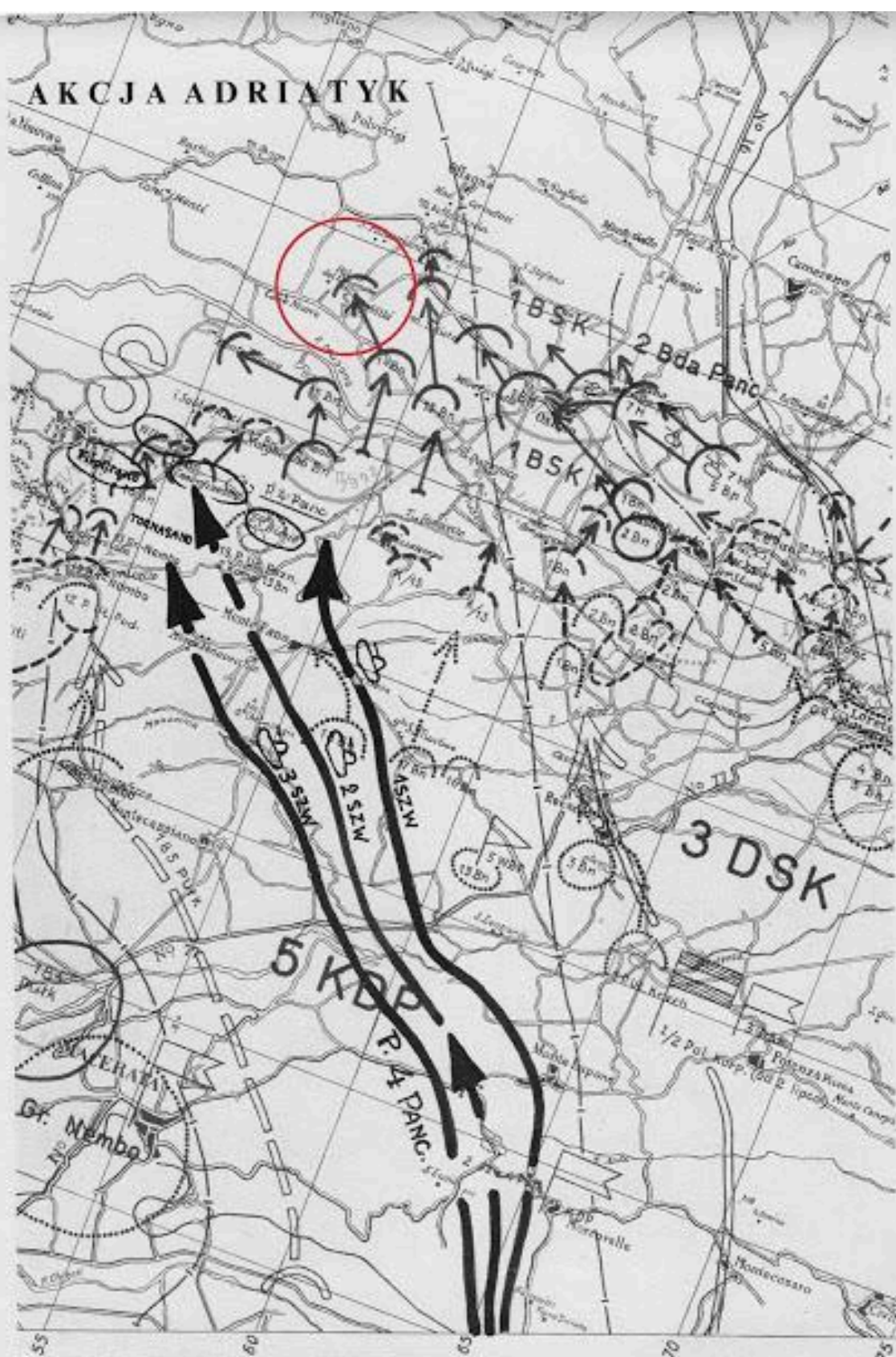
His unit is listed as: 5 Battalion, Ciezkich Karabinow Masynowych.



*Ancona WW2 War Cemetery at Loreto.
The war grave of Karol Zucharski, my best friend.
R.I.P.*

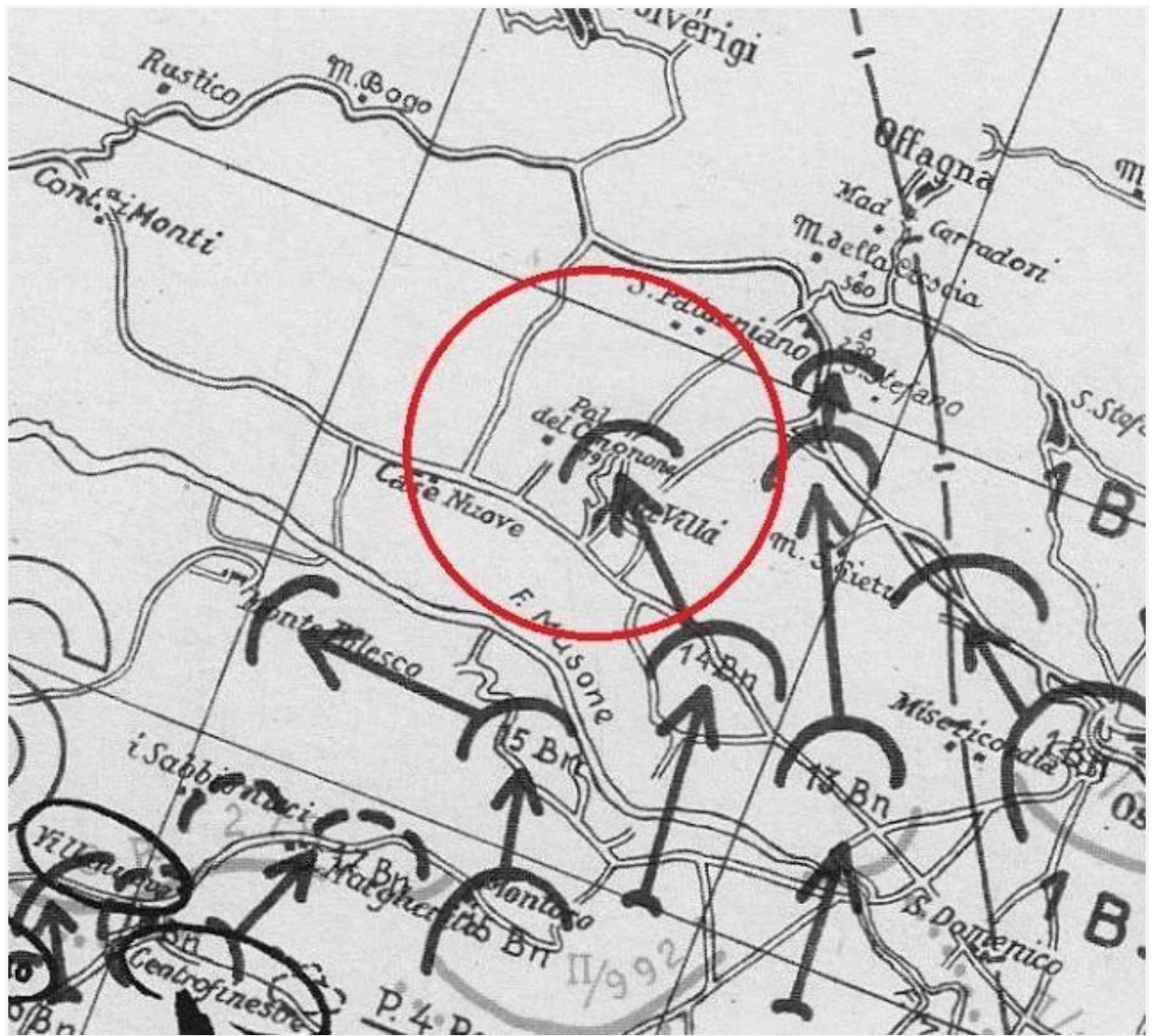
At the same time, I was seriously wounded. I was wounded at a place called Palazzo del Canonone, Ancona 8 July 1944. I was hit by shrapnel, hence multiple injuries. I was left for dead, and lost a lot of blood. When finally rescued, I was not expected to live. I must have been given blood transfusions. The surgeon in the field was going to amputate my left arm where I had a severe wound; I couldn't speak as I had also been hit in my teeth and jaw, but I pleaded with my eyes. The surgeon patched up my arm. I had pieces of shrapnel embedded in my right hand between my thumb and forefinger, and in one other finger, some of my top teeth were blown out, and one of my bottom teeth. Shrapnel had gone through one cheek. There was a piece embedded between my eye and brain that was never removed, but it caused damage to my eye that got worse over the years. There was a large but superficial wound at the base of my hairline, and numerous small wounds all over my body. The last piece to be removed was in the 1960's from the hinge of my jaw. It had moved round my head and settled in the jaw. I couldn't open my mouth. It was removed from the inside of my mouth and didn't leave a scar.

AKCJA ADRIATYK



Map from Pulk 4 Pancerny Regimental history.

Palazzo del Canonone is circled in red. It is north of the Musone River and south of Offagna. The 14th Wilenski Rifle Battalion assaulted this position. Mark's No 2 MG Company was possibly attached to this unit to provide direct fire support.



MARK GIGIERA. RECOVERY FROM WOUNDS AND EVACUATION FROM WAR ZONE.

My journey to the war in Italy had started with my arrest in Luboml, prison in Kharkov, an unjustified sentence of 5 years hard labour in a Siberian forestry gulag camp, and escape to join the Polish Army in Uzbekistan. After training we were moved to Italy where I was seriously wounded by shrapnel on 8 July 1944.

Whilst still in hospital, the treatment was to remove the largest pieces of shrapnel, see to my arm and stabilisation. Then I was moved further back from the front. More shrapnel was removed then, and I was patched up. I was very ill and don't know the time scale of any of this, but when I was deemed well enough I came by sea on the hospital ship, HMAS Oranje to Britain. I don't know which port the ship arrived at. We were transported by train to hospitals in Scotland in easy stages. Communication was difficult as we couldn't speak English and our names were difficult for English speakers. Many of us were so ill and really not fit to travel. I eventually got to Scotland where I gradually recovered.

Whilst in hospital (10/10/1944 – war records state: No 2 Polish Hospital SEFA which was based at Dupplin Castle. This is a country house and former castle in Perth and Kinross, Scotland, situated to the west of Aberdalgie and northeast of Forteviot and Dunning. and about 40 miles from Arbroath. I also spent some time at No 1 Polish General Hospital. This was based at Taymouth Castle and situated to the north-east of the village of Kenmore, Perth and Kinross in the Highlands of Scotland. All of the soldiers were visited by local people, and when we were well enough, were invited to their homes. I met nice people, and one woman near Arbroath on the coast was extremely kind.

I further convalesced in Peebles. When in the 1980's, I made a trip there, the large house I stayed in was still there.

After convalescence, probably in 1945 or 1946, I was sent to Inveraray Castle and was housed in nissen huts which had been left behind from their war time training facilities. By this time they were no longer needed for this purpose and were ideal for their change of use to housing recovering Polish soldiers, prior to the Resettlement Corps being formed and whilst the British decided what to do with us.

I was moved around as my care became less needy, consequently I was at several different places along the way and had a good introduction to Scotland and its beauty.

As I got better, I started to explore (an old pattern, the nomad in me). My English was almost non-existent, but I got by. If I asked for a pass and travel warrant, it was always granted. I travelled up to the north of Scotland, where a guard tried to tell me the train didn't go any further, and to Gosport in Hampshire, and everywhere in between. I didn't do anything when I got anywhere, I just followed the pattern instilled and kept going. I was a man without a mission and a man comfortable on long train journeys and to being on the move by myself. Being in a carriage, on a seat was a luxury as was having enough to eat.

On 20/2/1945 I was Declared completely unfit for military service. On 23/10/1946 I volunteered to enlist in the Polish Resettlement Corps which was designed to keep us busy and out of trouble.

On 25/11/1947 I was finally discharged.

For my time fighting in Italy in WW2 I received medals. I have never had fondness or pride for my medals as they are a sad reminder of the horrors of war, of my own injuries which have affected my whole life and the great sadness in losing my best friend Karol Zucharski.

Polish: Honorary Decoration for wounds

Cross of Monte Cassino

Army Medal

British: 1939-45 Star

Italy Star

Defence Medal

The War Medal 1939-45

After discharge I was trained in shoe making. I travelled south, getting a job in Northampton and later in Leicester where I met and married my wife. We have 5 children. This has been the safest, securest and happiest part of my life.

POUFNE

1. Kwestionariusz ten wypełniają wszyscy żołnierze Polscy Sił Zbrojnych bez różnicy stopnia oraz także zatrudnieni pracownicy cywili, mężczyźni i kobiety, którzy nie są ani obecnie powołani do Polski.
2. Wypełnienie tego kwestionariusza w znacznym natężeniu prawu obywateli się o powrót do Polski w jakikolwiek czasie.
3. Kwestionariusz ten nie wyłącza na ochotnicze dostarczenie Władzom Brytyjskim koniecznych informacji i nie daje żadnych gwarancji, że wyrażone w nim życzenia będą spełnione.

L. Nawoko

1. Nazwisko GIGIERA			Imię Marko		
2. Imię Ojca Zofia			3. Panierstwo Nazwisko (Tylko Mężatki)		
4. Mężczyzna Kod 8-92			5. Strona do Wpływu Polski: 8-92 Brytyjski: 8-92		
6. Data Urodzenia Dzień: 23 Miesiąc: 11 Rok: 1914			7. Obywatelstwo Polska		
8. Kawałeczek (Płaca) Zamieszkały: Województwo Województwo: Województwo			9. Kategoria Zawodu E		
10. Nr. poczty polowej oddziału: 107.46			11. Kategoria Zawodu E		
12. Prywatny stały Adres:			13. Kategoria Zawodu E		

15. Prywatny stały Adres :

12. Czy jesteś Członkiem Stowarzyszenia Polskich Kombarantów?

Podaj numer legitymacji Calkowskiej

13. Podaj numer twego koła Stowarzyszenia
— Polaków Kombatanów?

B. WYKSZTAŁCENIE CYWILNE

10. Podaj datę opuszczenia ostatniej szkoły lub uczelni wyższej

Nie pisz na
tym marginesie

[illegible]

17. Kursy dokształcania

17

Czego uczyłeś się	Nazwa kursu i nazwa instytucji, organizacji	Uzyskane świadectwo lub złożony egzamin	C4 ocena człona	M	G	E	S	K
Chodzenie kaniem	I.T.C.	tak	6/38	6	38	ni	ni	ni
W wojsku :								

III. Jakiś obywatel (prywatni) mieszkał lub mieszka? Amerykański, Rangijski

Bulgarski

IV. PRACA ZAWODOWA

Pracodawca (firma)	Co robił?	Plan	Data zatrudnienia od-do
<u>Sumitomo</u>	<u>Robotnik</u>	<u>4005</u>	<u>1937-38</u>

Kiedyś s tydzień był twoim głównym zawodem? Robotnik

Wyślij doświadczenia z pracy, które w tym czasie wykonywałeś? Prace koczownicze

Odczyt prądu (lub inna metoda)	Zajęcie lub przedmiot nauki (specjalność)	Data rozpoczęcia pracy lub czasu studiowania od-do	Zakończenie kursu od-do

UMIĘTNOŚCI DODATKOWE

Czy kiedykolwiek prowadziłeś samochód? ☒ TAK ☐ NIE

Czy kiedykolwiek prowadziłeś motocykl? ☒ TAK ☐ NIE

Pokładaj, że potrzebna ci jest wyprawa do pracy zawodowej:

- Rytm
- Makow
- Naprawianie instalacji elektrycznych
- Naprawianie radio
- Naprawianie zegarków
- Uprawnienie wozem lub kółkami
- Główny
- Naprawianie obrotów

Jakieś umiejętności potrzebne są?

między innymi twoje umiejętności:

SEKCYJA WOJSKOWA

Oddział	Funkcja	Stopień	Czas od-do
<u>Ors. And. Inw.</u>	<u>C. K. H. Inw.</u>	<u>1. 1946</u>	<u>1946</u>
<u>5. Ban. C. K. H. Inw.</u>	<u>Radomir</u>	<u>1944</u>	<u>1944</u>

Data wstąpienia do Polnich 64 Zbrojnych pod Dłuszym Brytyjskim:

Data 12.7.42 Kto Pohlens - Poryje

F. INNE INFORMACJE

25. W jakich krajach przebywałś dzień, nie proszę jeden rok?

Kraj	Czas pobytu	W jakim charakterze?
<u>Bulgaria</u>	<u>1939-42</u>	<u>Robotnik</u>
<u>Roma</u>	<u>1944-46</u>	<u>Robotnik</u>
<u>W. Niemcy</u>		

27. Czy posiadałś jakiegokolwiek dokumentu osobisty wojenne lub cywilne? ☒ TAK ☐ NIE

Wyślij jak: Army Book

32. Podaj kraj i miesiąc stałego zamieszkania w sierpniu 1939 r.?

Praga

35. Czy kiedykolwiek służyłś lub byłś instrukcją?

Pracodawca	Na jakim stanowisku?

Czy masz jak doświadczenia w zawodzie lub instruktora? ☒ TAK ☐ NIE

Uwagi: Powinnoś podać wszelkie inne informacje, które znalazłś w swoim. Jeśli niekiedy ci zdarza się jakiegokolwiek odpowiedzi, możesz wypełnić ją tutaj.

Nat. of War - Inw. M. G. 138 (Pohl. F. 10)

in - W. 100

204 (ojciec) (matka) Janna Raba

Pohlens

Pohlens

H. PRZYSZŁAŁOŚĆ

Nie należy odpowiadać na pytania powyżej, jeżeli wypełniłeś p. 27, dotyczący twojej rodziny.

Możesz tu podać później zmiany tych danych:

Kogo z członków rodziny chciałbyś zatrudnić w domu?

Nazwisko i imię	Wiek	Płeć	Stanowisko potencjalne	Gdzie teraz przebywa

Nazwisko ojczyste _____ Imię _____

Twoje Wojsko Nr. _____ Oddział _____

Jeżeli ty samś kwatermistrz (kwatermistrz) wypełnił po zakończeniu akcji wojennej, oddział uzupełni p. 27 i prześle do kwatermistrza i prześle go do:

POLISH GENERAL STAFF, RECORDS OFFICE.

If this section has been detached from the questionnaire and completed after the interview, Units will enter the in Section 23 and in boxes 30, 31, and 32 and send this section to:—POLISH GENERAL STAFF RECORDS OFFICE.

Przebieg choroby

Imię i nazwisko osoby chorej	Płeć	Stosunek pokrewieństwa	Data urodzenia	Kraj w którym przebywa	Czy chciałby zobaczyć rodziców
					TAK
					TAK
					TAK
					TAK
Nazwisko i imię			Wiek		TAK
					TAK
					TAK
					TAK

34. Ile Pociągów? (1) 100 (2) 200 lub mniej

Podpis _____ Data _____

Nazwisko referenta spisowego _____

30.	(1)	(2)
30	<u>23</u>	<u>15</u>
31	<u>23</u>	<u>23</u>
32	<u>23</u>	<u>23</u>
33	(1) <u>Venezuela</u>	(2) <u>Anglia</u>
	(1) <u>21</u>	(2) <u>73</u>

H. PRZYSZŁOŚĆ

NAMYSŁ SIĘ DOBRZE ZANIM ODPOWIEZ NA TO PYTANIE. Możesz je zaraz pominąć a dopiero później po zastanowieniu się poprosić twego przełożonego o ten arkusz, aby wpisać tutaj odpowiedź.

30. Jaka pracę wybrałbyś po demobilizacji, jeżeli nie będzie możliwe żadne szkolenie zawodowe?

(1) Cholewicki (2) Rolnik

31. Gdybyś miał możliwość studiować zawodowo, jakiego zawodu cywilnego chciałbyś się nauczyć?

(1) Cholewicki (2) Cholewicki Składowy

32. W jakich krajach chciałbyś się usiedlić?

Kraj	Na własną rękę (z rodziną)	W polskiej Gromadzie	Kod 33
(1) <u>Venezuela</u>	<u>tak</u>		<u>21</u>
(2) <u>Anglia</u>	<u>tak</u>		<u>73</u>

Podpis Grygor Nazwisko Referenta Spisowego J. Tinkler

Data 9.9.46 Data 9.9.46

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ORIGINAL

REGULAR

ARMY



ATTESTATION OF

Army No. 30052098

N. No. GIGIERA M.

POLISH RESETTLEMENT CORPS

Questions to be put to the Recruit before Enlistment:

1. What is your Full Name? { 1. Christian Name MARKO
Surname GIGIERA
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? { 2. In the Parish of Widyne in or
near the Town of Poland
in the County of Poland
3. (a) Are you a British Subject? 3. (a) no
(b) Nationality of Parents at their birth? (b) Father Polish Mother Polish
4. What is your Trade or Calling? 4. none
5. (a) What was your age (in years) last birthday? 5. (a) 23 (years)
(b) Day, month and year of birth? (b) 1.1.1923
6. (a) Are you married? (b) How many children are none
(Signed and stamped)
7. Do you now belong to the Royal Navy, the Army, the Royal Air Force, the Royal Marines, the Supplementary Reserve, the Territorial Force, the Army Reserve, the Air Force Reserve, the Auxiliary Air Force, and Naval Reserve, or to any Division of Colonial Forces? If so, state particulars of ALL engagements.
8. Have you ever served in the Royal Navy, the Army, the Royal Air Force, the Royal Marines, the Supplementary Reserve, the Territorial Force, the Army Reserve, the Air Force Reserve, the Auxiliary Air Force, and Naval Reserve, or to any Division of Colonial Forces? If so, state particulars of ALL engagements.
9. Have you truly stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? 9. yes
10. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? 10. yes
11. Are you willing to be enlisted for the Polish Resettlement Corps? 11. yes
12. Are you willing to serve for a term of two years with the Colours provided? 12. yes
(His Majesty should so long require your services)
13. Have you received a paper notice stating the conditions you are desiring, by enlisting, and you understand and are you willing to accept them? and who gave it to you? 13. yes Name Gigiera
Corps Polish

Gigiera Marko

In solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements made.

SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT

Signature of Witness

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE OR ATTESTING OFFICER.

The Recruit above named was questioned by me and he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been freely and truthfully given, and the said recruit has made and signed a declaration before me to that effect.

on this 2nd day of June

1946. Signature of the Justice A. D. D. D. D.

If any alteration is required on this page of the Attestation, a Justice of the Peace should be requested to make it and initial the alteration under Section 90 (1), Army Act. The Recruit should receive a copy of his attestation on Army Form B 271A.



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE CS(RM)2c

Bourne Avenue Hayes Middlesex UB3 1RF

Telephone 081-573 3831 ext 335

Pg. Off. Boris R. GILBERT RAF
12 Monro Avenue
Crownhill
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK8 0BL

Your reference

Our reference
3/52098/CS(RM)2c/H

Date / June 1994

Dear Sir

Thank you for your recent letter. I am pleased to confirm the following particulars of the military service of:

30052098 Private Marko GIGIERA also known as Mark GILBERT

born on: 1 January 1923 at Nudyze Nudyrze, Lubomil, Wolyn, Poland now W. Ukraine

parents: Zoc and Jaryna nee RABA

Marital status (while serving): Single

Nationality: Polish Religion: Russian Catholic

Civilian occupation (prior to Army Service): None

Service with the Polish Forces under British command:

from 15 August 1942 to 21 October 1946

Service with the Polish Resettlement Corps: Enlisted

Commissioned on 22 October 1946

relegated to:

Class "W" Reserve on 5 March 1947
Unemployed List

finally discharged

relinquished commission on 25 November 1947
(honourably discharged)

Conduct: Good

Mark escaped from a Gorky work camp (forfeiture) - near Arzangb
Former Service and History: Deported to USSR in 1940. On the basis of the Sikorski-Malsky (Polish-Soviet) agreement of 30 July 1941 released for the purpose of joining the Polish Armed Forces which were being organized in 1941-42 on the Soviet territory. Enlisted in the Polish Army on 12.4.1942.

Together with the Polish Army Units evacuated to Iran, thereby came under British command as above.

Postings:

- 1) 7 Anti-Aircraft Artillery Regiment, 2nd Polish Corps HQ in the Middle East (Iran, Iraq, Palestine) 1942-44 and in Italy 1944 (as part of the British 8th Army).
- 2) 5 Machine Gun Battalion, 5 Kresowa Infantry Division, 2nd Polish Corps, 8th British Army in Italy 07.06.44 - 08.07.44 when seriously wounded in action at Palazzo Del Cannone.
- 3) Evacuated to the United Kingdom for further treatment on 03.10.44.
- 4) Polish General Hospital No 2 in the UK - 10.10.44.
- 5) Convalescent Home at Peebles, Scotland - 21.11.44.
- 6) 1st Polish Armoured Division Reserve Depot in the UK - 04.12.44.
- 7) Disabled Polish Servicemen Centre - 03.09.46.

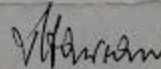
With effect from 20.02.1945 the Polish Military Medical Commission declared him as completely unfit for military service (Health category "E").

Theatre of Operations: Italy 15.01.1944 - 08.07.1944

<u>Medal Entitlement:</u>	<u>Polish:</u>	Honorary Decoration for Wounds Cross of Monte Cassino Army Medal
	<u>British:</u>	1939-45 Star Italy Star Defence Medal The War Medal 1939-45

(Issued on 4 April and 10 May 1950)

Yours faithfully



J HAWRAN (Mrs)
for Departmental Record Officer

BOC

CS(R) 2c
POLISH SEARCH
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Translation of the Army Service record sheet - KARTA EWIDENCYJNA

GIGIERA MARKO

1. Born on 1 January 1923 in Nudy(r)ze parish Golowna, district Lubomir, county Wolyn (Poland now West Ukraine) (words in brackets are mine).
2. Names of parents : father ZOD/ZOT/ZOC (not certain).
mother (deceased) Jarina nee RABA
3. Marital status : Single
4. In case of an accident, to inform : uncle RABA Mieczyslaw of Maciejow, district Kowel.
5. Height 180 centimetres Weight Kg. Chest cm,
Leg length cm. Type of physical build Hair : dark blonde.
Eye-brows : dark blonde. Eyes : brown or hazel. Nose : straight. Lips :
medium. Chin : drawn back, flat. Face : oval-shaped. Any particular marks
.....
6. Mother tongue (language) - Polish

Nationality - Polish

Religion : Russian orthodox
7. Last permanent address before enlistment:

Maciejow, district Kowel and Nudy(r)ze, parish Golowna.
8. Education and knowledge of languages : self taught, (according to his own statement).
9. Civilian occupation : None (according to his own statement).
10. Any Military training (prior to joining JH).

./.
11. Schools and Military Courses.

./.
12. Army Rank Date of promotion
Private -
Lance Corporal 1. 5.1946
13. Verdict of the Recruitment Board and of the Military Medical Board
(or Commission JH)

Last Category of fitness in Poland : did not have any
" " " " in USSR "A"
" " " " in Great Britain "E"

6.6.44
(2)

<u>Name of the Commission/Board</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Verdict</u>	<u>Signature</u>
Recruitment Board No.7	13.4.1942	Fit Cat "A"	illegible
Military Medical Board at No.1 Polish General Hospital	20.2.1945	Unfit Cat "B"	illegible

14. Referrals/Appeals
./.
15. Prospective trade or assignment.
./.
16. Reduction of active service
./.
17. Any military specialization
./.
18. Posting on general mobilization.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Formation</u>	<u>Remarks</u>	<u>Discharge in case of mobilization</u>
./.			

19. Record of service:

In Poland from to

In USSR from 12.4.42 posted to the Reserve Infantry Regiment.

In Great Britain from included in the Record Office No.1.

Active service counts from 12.4.42.

12.4.42 posted to 7 Company of the Infantry Reserve Regiment.

9.12.42 transferred to 5 Field Eng. Bn. from the Reserve Company.

10.5.42 attested in 22 Infantry Regiment.

2.4.43 transferred in every respect (i.e. both on paper and in actual fact - physically) to 7 Light Anti-Aircraft Art. Regiment. (Daily Orders of 5 Fd. Eng. Bn., 75/43.)

2.4.43 reported himself at the Army Reserve Centre Rallying Point.

3.4.43 transferred to 7 Light Anti-Aircraft Art. Regt. - returned from hospital No.2.

3.4.43 reported himself to 7 Light Anti-Aircraft Art. regt. and assigned to 9 Battery (Daily Order of 7 Anti-Aircraft Art. Regt. No.01/43).

6.6.44 transferred in every respect to 11 Medium Artillery Regt. (Order of 7 Light Anti-Aircraft Regt. No.61/44).

6.6.44 reported himself in 11 Medium Art. regt. and assigned to 2nd Battery (Daily Orders Op. 11 Med. Art. Regt. 61/44).

7.6.44 transferred in every respect to 5 Kresowy Machine Gun Battalion, (Daily Orders - 11 Med. Art. Regt. 1461/44).

7.6.44 reported himself in 5 Kresowy M.G. Battalion and assigned to 2nd Company (Daily Orders of 5 Kres M.G. Bn. No.128.44).

8.7.44 - gone to 9 Casualty Station of 6 Lwowski Infantry Brigade (6 LBP - 6 Lwowska Brigada Piechoty) as very seriously wounded in the face - (a few wounds) on the field of military operations at a place (called) Pallazzo Del Cannone, Italy (Daily Orders 5 Kresowy M.G. Battalion No.150/44).

9.7.44 transferred by the 5 SOF to No.1 Polish General Hospital (Daily Orders 5 M.G. Battalion 166/44).

27.7.44 transferred in the records (on paper JH) to the Holding Unit, 7 Infantry Division (Daily Orders 5 M.G. Battalion 167/44).

3.10.44 evacuated by No.3 Polish General Hospital to the United Kingdom for further treatment (Daily Orders of the Holding Unit 143/44).

12.12.44 transferred in the records (on paper) to the Records Office No.1 (Daily Orders of Records Office No.3 29662/44).

10.10.44 recorded as present in the Records Office No.1 while at the same time he was in actual fact at No.2 Polish General Hospital "SEFA" (Daily Orders of No.1 Records Office 92/45).

21.11.44 arrived at a Convalescent Home at Peebles from No.2 Polish General Hospital (Daily Orders of No.1 Record Office 25025/44).

4.12.44 reported himself in the 1st Polish Armoured Division Reserve Depot from the Convalescent Home (Daily Orders of the Reserve Centre 61/44 and Daily Orders of No.1 Record Office 26200/44).

11.12.44 admitted to the Polish General Hospital No.2 (Daily Orders of the Reserve Centre 69/44 and of the No.1 Record Office 26205/44).

14.12.44 returned from Polish General Hospital No.2 to the 1st Polish Armoured Division Reserve Depot (Daily Orders of the Reserve Centre D.O. 71/44 and Daily Orders (D.O.) of No.1 Record Office 1383/45).

20.2.45 by the decision of the Military Medical Board held at No.1 Polish General Hospital on 20.2.45 declared as completely unfit for military service - health category "E" (Daily Orders of No.1 Record Office 13008/45; Daily orders of the (Polish) Ministry of Defence - 7376.

10.5.45 transferred in the records (on paper) to the 1st Armoured Division Reserve Centre (Daily orders of No. Record Office 109/45).

25.1.45 admitted to Polish General Hospital No.1 from the Reserve Centre (Daily Orders of No.1 Record Office 6112/45).

11.5.45 transferred in the records (on paper) to the Reserve Centre - 1st Polish Armoured Division (Daily Orders (D.O.) 137/45 and D.O. of No.1 Record Office 26689/45).

1.5.46 promoted to the rank of a Lance Corporal but his paid rank was that of a private (D.O. of the Army Reserve Centre 128/46 and D.O. of No.1. Record Office 25653/45.

3.9.46 transferred in every respect (i.e. on paper in the records and in actual fact) to the Disabled Servicemen Health centre with a simultaneous stay in the Polish General Hospital No.1 (Daily Orders No.158/46 and No.1 Record Office D.O. No.30174/46.

23.10.46 volunteered to enlist in the Polish Resettlement Corps (PRC) in his real (Substantive) rank of Lance Corporal but paid rank that of a private (Daily Orders of No.1 Record Office 10718/47.

Heading No.22 records any corrections or alterations made in his record e.g. instead of MAREK it should have been MARKO or instead of France the record should read ZSSR i.e. USSR.

The third remark made under this heading states that the Karta Ewidencyjna or the service record sheet was written on the data (info) contained in your father's Zeszyt Ewidencyjny or the service record booklet (which by the way is not in his file). It must be with the War Pensions Directorate Archives Registry, Nelson, Lancs.

Heading No.23. Theatre of Operations, participation in any battles:

In the years 1918-21:

In 1939:

In 1940:

Heading No.24. Medal Entitlement, Commendations, Wounds : 22.9.47 Army Medal for the first time 9.12.46. The War Medal 1939-45 and all the other British military decorations as written out on the KARTA with the stamps and dates of their issue.

The End

1 PUŁK ART. PLUTN. LEKKIEJ

KARTA IMIENNA



634

Nazwa jednostki (zakładu, inst.)
sporządzającej spis

1. Nazwisko <i>Gięgięra</i>		2. Imiona <i>Starek MARKO</i>	
3. Rocznik <i>1923</i>	4. Imiona rodziców <i>Łoć Stanisław, Zofia Janina</i>		5. Kat. zdrowia <i>A</i>
7. L. karty ewid. <i>124/17</i>	6. Miejsce urodz. <i>Wodzie, w. Wotyn</i>		8. Rodz. wojska <i>Art. Plotu</i>
9. Ostatnie m. zamiesz. w Polsce <i>Widzied p. Łuck</i>			
10. Wyznanie <i>rym. kat.</i>		11. Narodowość <i>polska</i>	12. Spec. wojsk. <i>obst. dz. L.</i>
13. Wykształcenie cyw. <i>analfabeta</i>		14. Zawód cyw. <i>robotnik niekwalifikowany</i>	
15. Stopień wojsk. <i>kanonier</i>		16. Stosunek do st. wojsk.	
17. Przynał. etatowa do jednostki <i>1 PUŁK ART. PLUTN. LEKKIEJ</i>		18. Jednostka ewid.	
19. Obecny w jednostce <i>tak</i>		20. Nie obecny	Odszedł do: Kiedy?
21. Czy posiada:	zeszyt ew. <i>tak</i> ks. st. Cz. I. Nr. <i>55334/42</i> znaki tożsamości <i>tak</i>		
<i>Dowódca 9. baterii</i> <i>Myjowski por.</i> <i>Kijowski Adam por.</i> (Podpis dcy sporządzającego spis)			

1657/PP&TJ/K.