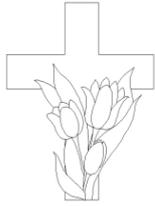
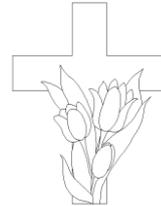


Odeszli od nas na wieczną wartę ...
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Ś. P. James Rudnik-Rogers



James (Born Czeslaw Jozef Rudnik) was born in Sulecinek, near Sroda, Poland in February 1925.

He was a small, sickly baby, not expected to survive the night. The Poland he was born into was enjoying its first taste of freedom, for many generations. His grandfather, Wojtek Rudnik, and his family had returned to Poland after many years in Germany, to establish a new business.

Jim's father, Frank, married Emma Kluge, a local farmer's daughter. It was a peaceful rural and small town environment. Jim's qualities of self sufficiency, versatility and organisation were learnt on his grandparent's farm and particularly, from his mother.

His world changed forever in September 1939, when Hitler's Blitzkrieg was unleashed on Poland. German troops were soon in Sroda, and the swastika was raised outside the town hall. In time, aged 17, he was taken by the Germans.

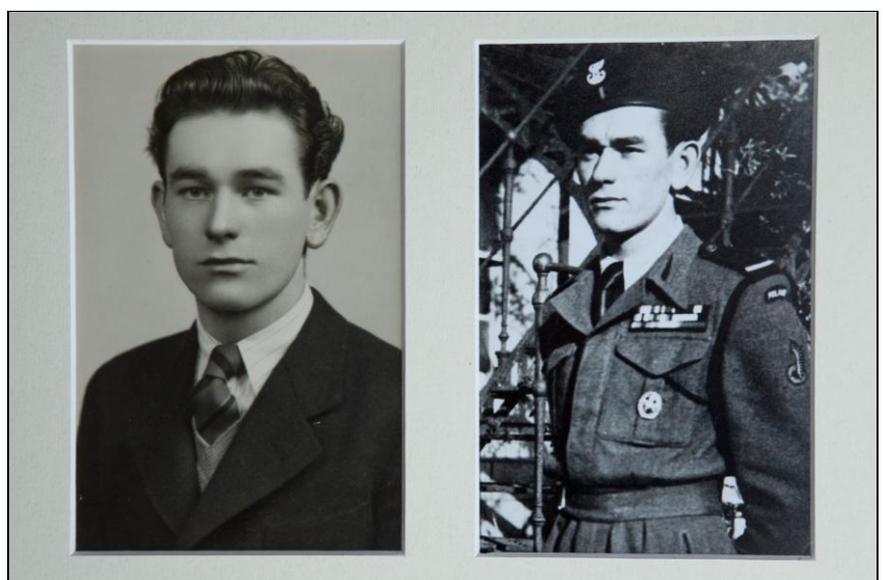
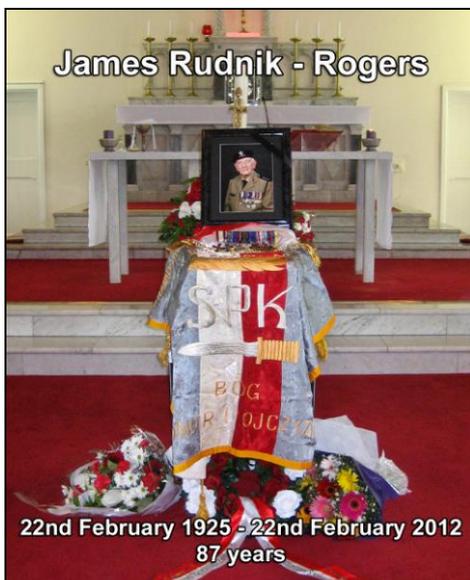
Like thousands of other Poles, he escaped and joined the Polish forces; taking part in many major battles in Normandy, Belgium and the Netherlands. After the war, unable to return to Poland, he went to Scotland, and there met and married Margaret Hamilton. They came to Australia in 1952.

Jim tried his hand at many occupations – fitter, boilermaker, delicatessen owner, television salesman, real estate agent, owner builder and roller door salesman. He devoted many years of service to SPK, the Polish community generally, and the wider community, remaining active almost to the end.

He had a great love of music and played keyboard and the violin. His family, particularly his grandchildren, will always remember his humour, wisdom and keen interest in their lives. Whilst not outwardly religious, he had a simple faith, no doubt forged by his survival during the war.

He now joins his parents, two sisters and those of comrades who have gone before him.

Mark Freudenberg
 27/02/2012.





Czeslaw James Rudnik - Rogers
22nd February 1925 - 22nd February 2012
87 years

Czeslaw James Rogers Rudnik, born 22 February 1925 in Sulecinek – Sroda near Poznan. Served in Polish Army under Gen S. Maczek with Allied forces.

He has taken part in many battles, including an invasion of Germany in 1944. For bravery he was awarded: Cross of Valour (second highest to Victoria Cross in Polish Army), War Medal and many others, 19 medals in all, including OAM medal of the Order of Australia for over 50 years community service.

Jim joined the Polish Ex - Serviceman's Association in Australia Sub-Branch No 8 Qld in 1964 and has been Member for 48 years.

In that time he held many positions, four terms as President and Vice - President, building supervisor and where ever needed Jim was there.

Jim's passing away has shocked many of us. He will be sadly missed not only as a good leader, advisor, negotiator but most of all as valued trusted friend.

He will be sadly missed by members of our Association and other Organizations like Anzac, Polish Scouting Ass., Polonia Ass. and other Australian org.

Jim was responsible in placing a memorial plaque in New Farm RSL H/Q for Polish Forces and in the Anzac Square Memorial in Ann Street.

But in his private life, he was businessman, tradesman and a musician played on bagpipes, violin, drums and keyboard and as Jim was saying, played on many nerves as well.

Our deepest condolences for Jim's wife Margaret, daughter Debbie and son-in-law Mark, grandchildren James and Emma and family in Poland and Scotland.

May He rest in well deserved Peace in God's Hands and in our Memory for ever.

James Rudnik-Rogers OAM (1925 – 2012)

A Tribute from Dina Browne AO

Many Association members who attend functions in Brisbane may have had a sense of something missing from the Association scene this past year. They would be right: James Rudnik-Rogers OAM, who regularly entertained guests with his music before, and often during our functions, died last year. James was a member of the Branch Committee for many years, and after his retirement remained a staunch supporter of the Association – he was most generous with his help, and was always put upon to provide the incidental music at receptions and dinners. He also teamed with the late Thelma Rowatt to make the morning tea meetings a fun-filled musical experience. This was always done with skill and a good deal of charm and grace.

A highly decorated soldier in the Polish forces in the Second World War, James came to Australia with his Scottish wife in 1952. He set about building a new life here with the same selflessness and courage that had earned him his war medals. James was passionate about community service and spent many years working for the Polish Ex-Servicemen's Association. He was honoured in the Order of Australia with the award of an OAM for his contribution for the community. To those of us who knew him and enjoyed the special touch he brought to our events, he was a friend, a gentleman and the ultimate music maker. He is greatly missed.

The Order of Australia Association
Queensland Branch Bulletin
Issue 1, 2013.

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