

WSPOMNIENIE O WETERANIE II WOJNY ŚWIATOWEJ – Śp. HENRYKU RATAJCZYK

Odszedł od nas na wieczną wartę...



Stowarzyszenie Polskich Kombatantów Koło Nr 1 w Sydney z głębokim żalem informuje, że w dniu 14-go Marca 2013 roku pożegnało długoletniego członka śp Henryka Ratajczyk. Bohatera II Wojny Światowej. ODZNACZONEGO: KRZYŻ MONTE CASSINO, MEDALEM WOJSKA, DEFENCE STAR MEDAL, THE WAR MEDAL 1939 / 1945, GWIAZDA ITALII, GWIAZDA AFRYKI, DYPLOM od PREMIERA AUSTRALII Hon PAULA KEATING z okazji 50-tej rocznicy zakończenia II Wojny Światowej; 1945 – 1995.



TOBRUK 1942



EGIPT 1940



ROK 1938

KAMPANIA WRZEŚNIOWA Kompania saperów w Warszawie. Wyjazd na granicę Polsko – Rosyjską. Budowa obiektów wojskowych,. Kapitulacja, Ucieczka do Rumunii, Węgier, Austrii, Jugosławii do Iraku, Egiptu. Iranu, Palestyny. Gdzie dołącza się do Polskich Oddziałów Gen. Kopańskiego? Wyjazd do Tobruku, następnie Monte – Casino. Po zakończeniu działań wojennych wyjechał wraz z Korpusem generała Andersa do Anglii, gdzie służył i pracował w lokalnych obozach. Po rozwiązaniu Drugiego Korpusu w Anglii, wrócił do zrujnowanej Warszawy, gdzie 1949 roku zawarł związek małżeński z panią Małgorzatą.

Do Australii przyjechał w 1961 roku na zaproszenie współuczestnika walk o Tobruk, żołnierza australijskiego.

Dwukrotnie brał udział w pielgrzymce do Ziemi Świętej. W Palestynie gdzie był klasztor Ojców Trapistów zaopiekował się pielgrzymami Ojciec Borkowski. Pielgrzymki te były rejestrowane, za co otrzymał dwukrotnie odznaczenie ZAKONU PANA JEZUSA.

Po przetransportowaniu Brygady do Włoch i włączeniu do DRUGIEGO KORPUSU Generała Władysława Andersa, brał udział, jako saper w walce o Monte Casino.

Wieloletni członek S.P.K Koła Nr 1 w Sydney.

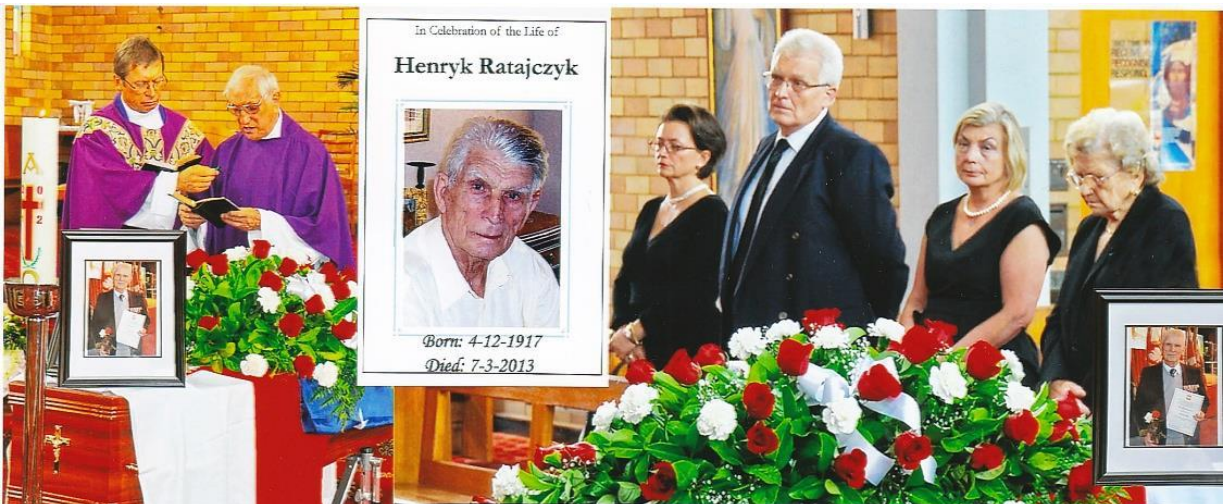
Każda utrata członka naszego koła uświadamia nam, że stajemy się ubożsi o tę osobę...



Celebracja jubileuszu 90-dziewięćdziesiątlatków w Klubie Polskim w Ashfield.



W dniu swoich 98 urodzin na zebraniu Zarządu Koła S.P.K – 4 Grudzień 2012



Henryk Ratajczyk funeral - Sacred Heart Church Cabramatta 14-3-2013





Ostatnie pożegnanie przez syna Marka.

Dear Family and Friends,

When we are born our preparations begins for the eventual END, but nothing can totally prepare us for the passing of our loved one and for the feelings and emotions that are created by their passing. Henryk Józef Ratajczyk was born on the 4th of December 1914 in Warszawa, Poland to Józef and Marianna Ratajczyk. Henryk was the oldest of the 3 surviving children.

With both parents working, Henryk was thrust into life's responsibility at an early age, looking after his younger siblings and helping with the many chores during the very difficult economic times that existed in Poland and the world.

After finishing his schooling – he used to remind me that he had to walk 5 km to school – Henryk began working in a factory contributing and supporting the family he so dearly loved. His spare past time would be spend fishing, living so close to the Wisła river and playing his treasured cornet for the local church band. Please note that his instrument of choice in his later years was a harmonica and some of you I am sure – and I use the term loosely – “had the pleasure” to hear him play.

Young Henryk was conscripted into compulsory National Service and was stationed outside of Warsaw in the electro-technical division as sapper. During his service he acquired number of useful skills, one of which was a driver mechanic that he later used as his profession.

On completion of his national service he was offered a job in the army as a driver mechanic in the officer’s training academy in Warsaw, in the transport-supply unit.

When World War II broke out in 1939 orders were given to evacuate the academy and move east towards the Russian border. As they were approaching the eastern border, word was out that the Russian Army was advancing into Poland. Orders were given to disband and regroup in Romania. Within days the Romanian border was closed and the move was on into Hungary and then into Yugoslavia where the scatted Polish soldiers regrouped initially under French command and then the English, when France capitulated. The soldiers were put on ships and transported to the Middle East, fighting in Libya, Palestine, Syria, Egypt (Tobruk) and Iraq.

When the Middle East campaign ended he was transported to Italy and fought at Monte Casino. With the end of the Italian campaign came the end of World War II.

Henryk’s next journey was to England where he was repatriated. After a about 12 months stay in England, he found himself considering two options – one – going to Australia, which he considered very seriously OR return to Poland. He chose the latter in order to find his family which he had not seen for over 9 years. Back in Poland, he managed to find his mother and two sisters but sadly his father passed away.

His return to Poland also sparked another major event in his life – he met his wife Stanisława! They got married and were blessed with two children, daughter Elizabeth Margaret and son Mark.

The next milestone in Henryk’s life was the immigration to Australia with his family in 1962.

He picked up five suitcases, his wife and two kids in tow and followed his dream. With no time to waste, Henryk began working at whatever he could – picking blackberries, working at the Warragamba Dam site, spray painting and finally working as gardening when he retired.

Henryk and Stanisława setup a home in a new country enjoying each other, their kids and the happiness that followed the big change.

Henryk enjoyed his retirement he kept busy by helping family and friends, and looking after his grandson. Throughout Henryk’s life, his working career and with the help from his partner and wife – his priority was always the family, the children, the house and their friends that they treasured so dearly.

My parent’s love, help and support always was and still is paramount and plentiful.

Henryk and Stanisława are a unit and an icon, and in my mind, I will not see one without the other and their love will continue to flow in abundance.

Henryk passed away in his sleep during Thursday night, the 7th of March 2013 at the age of 98. It is hard to comprehend that Henryk has passed away.

Looking at his life history it seems that he has just gone on another of his life journeys.

We have never said “goodbye” to each other – only “see you tomorrow”. So Henry, until we see you again – God bless and rest in peace, your loving family, relatives and friends.

I would like to thank my loving and special mother Stanisława, my dearest and loving wife Małgosia, my ever supportive and caring sister Elizabeth, Wiesław and Andrew, for all their support in this difficult time.

Now – conveying a personal message from Henryk when last spoke – a big thank you to Jurek and Dzikka, to John and his family and to father Krzysztof for all their help and support.

Thank you All – our relatives and friends – for your prayers for support and your good wishes in making this day so special for Henryk and less painful for us,
Thank you all.

Son Marek

Straciliśmy wielkiego społecznika, człowieka, któremu dobro Polonii Australijskiej leżało mocno na sercu i który robił wszystko, aby wewnętrzne stosunki między poszczególnymi organizacjami dobrze się układały. Będzie go nam ogromnie brakowało.

Zapamiętamy go, jako człowieka zawsze pogodnego, uśmiechniętego, życzliwego ludziom i ich sprawom, skorego do bezinteresownego działania i pomocy, zdolnego do rozsądnego kompromisu, inicjującego, ale również realizującego nowe pomysły i inicjatywy.

Jego życiowy optymizm i pogoda ducha będzie dla nas zawsze dobrym przykładem zachowań w trudnych sytuacjach.

Jesteśmy Mu ogromnie wdzięczni, że był z nami, służył nam pomocą i radą i mocno wierzymy, że stanie przed Bogiem z rękami pełnymi dobrych uczynków.

Cześć jego pamięci!

NIECH MU ZIEMIA AUSTRALIJSKA LEKKĄ BĘDZIE....

Aleksander Zieliński