

REPORT OF INTERROGATION OF

R.56265, P/O HUBERT BROOKS, R.C.A.F.

1. Brooks baled out over Oldenburg on the night of the 8/9th April, 1942 and made three evasions from P.W. camp. On the first two occasions he was caught after being at liberty for a few days. His third escape in May 1943 was to a safe address given by the A.A. in Czeszochowa. *as P.O. Pole*
2. The A.A. signalled London asking for a check of Brooks' identity and that of his escape companion, 2873963, Sgt. A. Duncan, Gordon Highlanders.
3. The escapers remained in the Czeszochowa area for six months, frequently moving from billet to billet in various villages. *Brooks retained the rank of 2nd Lieut.*
4. Two months after their arrival they were accepted into the A.K., working in the "TERENOWKA". Their work consisted in doing patrols, and in liquidating Gestapo agents. They continued doing this work for four months, apparently a provisional period, after which they were transferred into the guerilla A.K. Forces in November 1943. *probationary*
5. The unit to which Brooks was attached was commanded by Lieut. ZAWISZA, and was the first group of its kind to be formed in Poland. It was located at Mt. TURBACZ, in the GOROW range of the Western BESKIDS, and numbered 40 men. Their activities consisted in patrolling their area and in raiding German food convoys.
6. On December 28th, 1943, when only 15 men were in the camp, the Germans attacked it killing two Poles. The rest escaped. The party then split and moved to different areas for reforming.
7. After reformation Brooks was put in command of a unit of 15 men *of which* (Sgt. Duncan was 2nd i/c). This unit raided the Police Station at CHOPNICA on 19th February; 25 policemen were captured, with arms, and one German and one Polish policeman were killed - five were wounded. Partisan casualties were one killed. *Brooks and*
8. The party then moved to the hills at PRZESLUP, and were attacked by a party of 60 German gendarmes on 21st February. After two hours of fighting the party broke through the encircling Germans, and went into hiding in a cave in the hills, having lost five men killed. German casualties were six killed and an unknown number wounded. *814*
9. The Party remained in close concealment for a week while German search parties combed the area for them. After things had quietened down they moved to GLOPNICE via STAKI GARD, where they reformed during February and March. *819*
10. The company now numbered 110 men and was named 1st Bn., 1st P.O.P., O/C Lieut. ZAWISZA. Brooks was given A.K. rank of 2nd Lieut., and was put in command of a group of 40 men, his 2 i/c being Sgt. Duncan. *1st Company of the*
11. From March to May the unit carried out ambushes on Germans (mostly food convoys) and liquidations of Gestapo Agents and Volkadeutch. Thus on 8th May, Brooks, Duncan and two Poles were given orders to liquidate a certain SIKORA, a Gestapo confidant living near LACKO. SIKORA had acquired considerable wealth in his dealings with the Germans and was

*Sikora had a French "Tommy-Gun" which was captured.*

a constant source of danger to the A.K. He was shot at 10.00 hours and his pistol was taken from him, following which his house was raided and a quantity of arms and ammunition taken from it. The liquidation squad then returned to PRZESLUP, where the ~~Br.~~ <sup>Company</sup> was now stationed.

12. On 12th May Brooks' party attacked a German patrol of 30 men, killing three and wounding five.

13. On 14th May, Brooks with four men ambushed a Grenzschutz Post at PIENICZKA, wounding four men.

- Company 1 Bn. PSP*  
14. Brooks' party stayed in hiding at LABONA waiting for orders from London to blow up an important railway tunnel at KAMIONKA (between NOY SACZ and GORLICE). Orders did not arrive and while waiting they executed three Ukrainian confidants at LABONA.

15. About 22nd May, Lieut. PRZYJACIEL (arrived by air from Italy) and was attached to the ~~Br.~~ <sup>Company</sup>. This officer organised a raid on the S.S. at KAMIENICA in which Brooks' party took part. This action took place on 25th May as follows:- *Duncan*

A lorry, full of S.S., was ambushed in daylight and many of the occupants were killed. The same night the ~~Br.~~ <sup>Company</sup> entered the town and called upon the S.S. to surrender, which they did without firing a shot. Large quantities of arms and ammunition were captured on this occasion.

16. On 26th May, the ~~Br.~~ <sup>Company</sup> returned to the PRZESLUP area, where they ambushed a lorry load of Germans, six of whom were killed and 15 wounded. The same night they destroyed two bunkers at SZLACHTOWA, on the Slovakian border.

- 1st Co.*  
17. On May 28th the ~~Br.~~ <sup>Company</sup> returned to SLOPNICE, where they received their first supply drop from Italy. The supplies arrived safely and in good order and were much appreciated. The party was now quite well armed, being in possession of a considerable amount of captured ~~arms~~ <sup>arms &</sup> German stores and of British arms and equipment. These were used to good effect against German A.F.V's. and bunkers.

18. About this time the Vice-President of the Propaganda Dept., of the Generale Government, arrived with a friend at Mogilica to join a hunting party. He was ambushed and captured with his friend by Brooks and Duncan while in the woods, and was executed at SLOPNICE. In reprisal for this 30 Polish prisoners in KRAKOW were shot by the Germans.

19. On 8th June a full scale attack was organised on the KASINA railway station. Brooks, Duncan and two Poles broke into the Bahnschutz quarters and disarmed 8 Germans forming the post. During this time Lieut. PRZYJACIEL destroyed the tele-communications room in a different part of the station, and a train load of O.T. men, to which was attached a truck load of ammunition, was attacked by the main strength of the ~~Br.~~ <sup>Company</sup>. In this action Lieut. ZARISZA was shot through the knee, and one Pole was killed. Following this the attack on the train was abandoned as the element of surprise had been lost, and the ~~Br.~~ <sup>Company</sup> withdrew. Before withdrawal Brooks had the eight Bahnschutz men shot. This was a reprisal for the shooting by the Germans of a Sgt. Sullivan, who had been captured and shot while on his way to join Brooks unit. Brooks says that an account of the

*Lieut. "Pygmalion" is now new C.O. of Company.*  
circumstances of Sullivan's death had been telegraphed to London.

- Duncan*
20. On 14th June, Brooks with Lieut. Milk and a party of 14 men, ambushed 40 Germans who were engaged in driving away a herd of over 100 head of cattle taken from the Poles. Two Germans were killed and the rest fled leaving the herd in the hands of the partisans.
- near the station of*
21. In July an ambush was organised on a train in the station at PORABKA. They were not successful in blowing up the train, but it was shot up and a number of Germans were killed. In reprisal for this the town of PORABKA was burnt down and 40 Poles, including small children, were burnt alive.
- at the time*
22. In July the Brigade was called to the assistance of the A.K. Forces in the neighbouring MISLONICK area, who were being attacked in force by the Germans. Fierce battle took place at MISLONOWO and LIPNIK, in the course of which two tanks and several armoured cars were destroyed, one armoured car captured and over eighty Germans killed on the Brigade sector. Following further German concentrations, which brought up their total forces to 8,000, the A.K. unit withdrew. In reprisal for these battles the Germans destroyed the town of RYPMIK.
23. The withdrawing forces were pursued by the Germans, who surrounded Brooks and his group of 40 men at STACZYK, near KRZYDZA and STRZYLYCH. Brooks led his detachment out of the encirclement without casualties, through heavy firing. In this action Sgt. Duncan was of very great assistance and behaved with exemplary courage.
- Duncan's actions were also noted by the Germans after the action.*
24. Early in August information was received that an O.F. officer, who was responsible for the PORABKA massacre, also a Bahnschutz officer, were staying at STRZYLYCH. Brooks set out with three men to ambush these officers, and was successful in shooting them both. *getting 2 Tommy guns.*
25. Early in September Brooks and Duncan were ordered to report at Brigade H.Q. in order to deal with five Americans who had been shot down at JABLONKA (SLOVAKIA) and a British escaper, 11721 Pte. B.M. Curtis, U.D.F.
- 26. Not* Brooks then reported to Brigade H.Q., where he was ordered, on instructions from Italy, to find a suitable landing field for an aircraft which was to pick up American and British escapers. *in the* After about two weeks search, Brooks found a suitable field, details of which were telegraphed to Italy, but no aircraft materialized. *middle of* About this time P/Lieut. SCHOFFER, 1586 Flight, who had heard of the possibility of evacuation by air, turned up, as well as nine more Americans.
- see.*
- P/Lt. SCHOFFER was a member of a Polish air-crew based at BRINDISI, and had been shot down while attempting to supply WARSAN in September, 1944.
27. On the night of 16th December, a aircraft from Italy dropped a large amount of stores, including British and German arms and ammunition and clothing, all of which were received safely. At the same time 12 men were dropped. About this time Brooks was told that a British Mission consisting of a Colonel, another officer, a C.S.M. and a Sgt. was being sent to Poland.

The reception of the above stores and men was arranged by TOLEK, said



to be a friend of KOGUT. Brooks took a very poor view of TOLEK's abilities and would like to make an adverse report concerning him.

28. On September 28th an A.K. camp at OCHOTNICE was attacked by the Germans in large force who used A.F.V.'s and silver-bombers, and all available forces were rushed to the support of the Poles. The battle lasted three days and the German withdrew after losing 800 killed.
29. In early January, 1945, Brooks took part in an action at SZANA, where the Germans attacked in force. Fighting lasted about a week and was broken off by the Germans owing to the advance of the Russians.
30. On 19th January, Brooks was told that the escape aircraft would definitely not arrive, and on the next day the area was over-run by the Russians, to whom the Americans at once declared themselves. Brooks, Duncan, ~~Summers~~ and Schoffer also decided to report to the Russians without revealing their connection with the A.K. Schoffer was passed off to the Russians as a Canadian pilot, since the party was convinced that he would be shot immediately by the Russians if they thought he was a Pole. The escapees were received without any enthusiasm by the Russians, who marched them in forced stages to GRABIE and then to MYSLINICE, a distance of about 60 kms. They then accompanied the Russian unit to which they were attached to BIELSKO, which was in the front line. Here they stayed for three days, being treated very inhospitably. They were very badly fed, although the Russians had plenty of good American canned food. From BIELSKO they were sent by truck to MORY SACZ, where they met 14 Americans, and where they stayed 2 1/2 weeks. During this time they were all treated more or less as prisoners and continued to receive very bad food, although the Russians themselves fared very well. In this connection the News Chronicle heading of 22nd March says: "FIRST PRISONERS HOME FROM ODESSA SAY RUSSIAN FOOD MARVELLOUS". This was doubtless said sarcastically.
31. While in MORY SACZ, Brooks contacted a P.P.S. M/T post, and arranged for them to send a signal to the U.K. Announcing that Brooks, with 17 Americans, three British and one Belgian, were being sent via Lwow and KIEV to ODESSA. The party went by truck to Lwow where they stayed a few days. Brooks reports the following items arising from conversations with Poles whom he met in Lwow:-
- (a) Source - girl belonging to the A.K., described by Brooks as reliable. 25,000 A.K. men have been deported to Siberia.
  - (b) Every cellar in the town of WILNO and the town of KROSNO is *being* ~~being~~ used for housing arrested Poles.
  - (c) The entire Polish population of Lwow is under orders to move west of the Curson Line at short notice.
32. The Party proceeded from Lwow to KIEV by <sup>Railway</sup> road and from KIEV to ODESSA by rail, arriving there early in March. Food and accommodation at ODESSA were very bad.
33. Brooks reports that a Polish doctor, who had previously served in the O.T., joined the partisans at Brigade M.Q. in September 1944. He acted as a German spy and gave valuable information to the Germans. He finally escaped from the partisans at the end of

September and was last heard of in MSZANA. He was sentenced to death by Major BOROWY, but, as far as Brooks knows, was not caught. Brooks cannot remember his name, but says that he was well known in NOWY TARG. He was aged about 30, weight 200 lbs, height 5' 6/7", bald.

34. Brooks considered that the position of the Poles after the entry of the Russians is far worse than before. In his area the Red Army completely devastated the countryside, looting absolutely everything movable from the houses, even including furniture. Members of the educated classes were being arrested and information as to their fate after arrest was not available. At the time of Brooks' departure the A.K. had gone back into hiding and were determined not to reveal themselves to the Russians.
35. Brooks was awarded the Polish Cross of Valour by Major BOROWY for gallantry in the Field, and he holds a certificate to that effect. This award could doubtless be confirmed by the Polish authorities in London.

Brooks speaks quite good Polish and is evidently a resourceful, courageous and security minded person. His cover story to the Russians, as reported in the News Chronicle of 22nd March, was that he had escaped from a German prison camp three days before being over-run by the Russians.