

Germans, but the deliberate refusal of Russian... among them, Lt. Hubert Brooks, a Marshal Rokossowski's army to join the fight... Canadian veteran of the Polish Home Army.

Canadian Airman Is Veteran Of Polish Fight For Freedom

By HUGH MacLEOD

MONTREAL. — "We want other freedom-loving nations to profit from our experience and realize that there is no such thing as peaceful co-existence with communism," said Stephen Korbonski, Chairman of The Commission of Polish Political Parties, at a re-union of the Polish Home Army Ex-Servicemen's Association here.

Just arrived from Washington, Chairman Korbonski, spoke to the veterans, including an RCAF Flight Lieutenant, as they marked the ill-fated Warsaw uprising in 1944. The insurrection failed when the German army crushed the revolt after the 'allied' forces of Marshal Rokossowski treacherously held back in the city's suburbs.

Messages of good wishes from Prime Minister St. Laurent and External Affairs Minister L. B. Pearson were read at the meeting. A telegram was also received from Quebec Premier Maurice Duplessis.

Also at the gathering of free Poles was Senator L. M. Gouin, Chairman of The Commission of External Affairs in the Senate and Senator John C. Connolly.

In a place of honor was Canadian Flight Lieutenant Hubert Brooks, a veteran of two years with the Polish Home Army who was personal representative of Chief Air Marshal C. R. Slemon. In April 1942, the RCAF navigator's Wellington bomber was



F/L HUBERT BROOKS

shot down while raiding Hamburg. For 13 months he was a prisoner. Then, after two unsuccessful escapes, he slipped by his guards and headed for the Polish frontier where he hoped the underground would return him to his squadron.

When his comrades-in-arms couldn't do this, he did the next best thing and joined the Polish Home Army. Given lieutenant's rank, he took over a platoon and struck at the Germans, he told The ENSIGN.

Ignorance of the Polish tongue didn't halt his new mission. Brooks learned the language and with his command hid out in the Carpathian mountains, where he continued, they raided Nazi positions, destroyed munition dumps and sabotaged railways and troop convoys.

Like similar units, he said,

Polish-German spies were discovered in underground ranks. "We were given 'cart blanche' to deal with them" he remarked wryly. "It was not always easy to spot informers, as they were raised in Poland and spoke the language perfectly."

From June 1943 to January 1945, the airman turned guerilla battled German units. Then in January, after the Soviet betrayed Warsaw uprising failed, Brooks left Poland. Because of his Canadian citizenship the Russians could not stop him, he explained.

Free Poland was grateful for his aid. The government in exile gave him the Cross of Valor (equivalent to our Distinguished Service Cross) and the Cross of Merit with Swords. He also holds the Canadian Military Cross.

Other Canadians are remembered by Poles in exile. One veteran told of the young bomber pilot flying supplies to the shrinking garrison in Warsaw. As the defenders closed thinning formations, the Canadian had to fly dangerously low so 'drops' would not fall in German lines. He sheared the roof from a house and crashed. After burying the bomber's crew, the Poles stripped guns from the twisted, smoking wreck and raked the enemy.

Ten years have passed since the Warsaw stand. As Brooks sat with fellow Home Army veterans he spoke of Polish associations, now more social than official. They have been that way since he returned to Canada in 1945 via Odessa, Cairo and Britain. Now he is stationed at Summerside, P.E.I.

He was due back that night, he told The ENSIGN. For the anniversary event he had flown hundreds of miles to mingle again with comrades still striving for Poland's freedom. But not the kind of liberation that an outraged wartime Prime Minister Churchill spoke of when he paid tribute to the heroes of Warsaw:

"When the Russians entered the city three months later they found little but shattered streets and the unburied dead. Such was their liberation of Poland, where they now rule. But this cannot be the end of the story."

ter...

poured with a portion of the gas. ...arian Lager ...e they are produced ...process and no ...are used.

D'S

Before you say SCOTCH SAY