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LEOŃCZUK Albin (1916-1948). *noms de guerre*: “Wrzos”, member of Freedom and Independence Association.



Born in Litewniki Nowe in 1916, son of Stefan and Marianna née Typa. He came from a deeply believing peasant family. His grandfather was a persecuted Unitarian (member of the Ruthenian Uniate Church) who was awarded the Papal Medal for defending the faith and the Golden Cross of Merit awarded by the President of the Republic of Poland in 1927. The decorations in question were deposited in the church in Kornica Stara as a gift from the family. **L.** graduated from the 7th grade of the primary school in Litewniki. In 1932, after the death of his father, he was forced to take over family and farm duties. After the outbreak of World War II, when his sister was ordered to go to forced labor in Germany, he replaced her, but after a few days escaped from the place of deportation. As a young boy in 1941, he began fighting in the underground. **L.** fought in the unit of the Freedom and Independence Association (WiN) under the command of Capt. Władysław Łukasiuk (*noms de guerre*: “Młot”). According to a story passed on to the next generation, **L.** on the day of the outbreak of the Warsaw Uprising dressed in a soldier’s uniform and with a rifle marched through the village as a sign of solidarity with the fighting Warszawa. **L.** sold all the valuables he owned, and used the money to buy weapons for the underground fight.

When repression began **L.** left for Lower Silesia, and upon his return on December 18, next day he was arrested and taken to Konstantynów. There he was tortured and intimidated, but **L.** remained an honor until the end. He did not turn anyone in and did not indicate the place where he hid the weapons that were to be used by WiN soldiers. Family members who saw the arrestee at the time recalled his grave condition. **L.** had his teeth knocked out, was covered in bruises, had a mangled body and broken fingers.

He was convicted by a sentence of the District Court in Lublin. On February 20, 1948 under Articles 16 § 1 and 4 § 1 of the decree, dated June 13, 1946, on especially dangerous crimes during the period of state reconstruction, to the death penalty.

On April 7, 1948 the death sentence was carried out by shooting. **L.** died with the words on his lips “This is not the Poland I fought for...”. The body of the murdered soldier was buried in a place unknown to the family. The Institute of National Remembrance (IPN) is carrying out activities to determine the burial places of the exiled soldiers. Thanks to the determination of the family and the initiative of Marcin Wroński – prosecutor of the Branch of the Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation in Lublin, the District Court in Lublin in 2005 reconsidered the case of **L.**, who had been sentenced to death. The prosecutor applied for recognition of the invalidity of the rulings made. In a 2006 court decision **L.** was declared

repressed for independence activities, there was also a complete cleansing of the name and annulment of the sentences handed down in 1948.

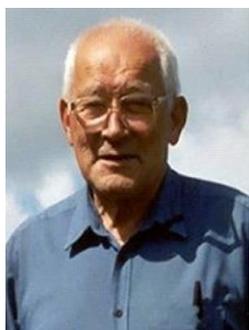
Since the whereabouts of his remains remain unknown to this day, the family of the late **L.** decided to honor him by creating a commemorative plaque. On August 14, 2017, in Litewniki Nowe near Łosice, a commemorative plaque was unveiled in honor of the late **L.**, the Unbroken Soldier. The event was preceded by Holy Mass at the local rectorate of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

The ceremony commemorating **L.** was attended, among others, by Father Tadeusz Syczewski, vicar general of the Drohiczyn diocese, Father Krzysztof Janowicz, parish priest of Litewniki Nowe, Rev. Chaplain H. Sz wajkowski, Edyta Gula, representative of the IPN, Karol Szymaniuk, deputy governor of the Łosice district, Andrzej Lipka, head of the Sarnaki community, as well as representatives of the Sarnaki community council, family, guests and residents of Litewniki and surrounding villages. In his short speech, the head of Sarnaki Municipality – A. Lipka, thanked the family of the commemorated hero for cultivating this memory of history, which was an inconvenient truth at an inconvenient time. Lipka stressed that thanks to the efforts of the “Wrzos” family, they were able to learn the historical truth, which is a great value for the whole society. During the ceremony, a poem about **L.** was read, which was written by Krystyna Małkowska, the granddaughter of Leończuk’s sister.

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Anna KŁOŚ

MACIĄG Ludwik Antoni (1920-2007). A member of the 34th Infantry Regiment of the 9th Podlasie Infantry Division of the Home Army, *noms de guerre*: “Sas”, Polish painter, professor, dean of the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw.



Born on July 13, 1920 in Kraków, as the youngest son of Michał and Rozalia Dokić, who came from Yugoslavia. Michał Maciąg, artilleryman in the Austro-Hungarian army, took part in World War I in the Balkans, fought at Verdun, returned to Poland with General Haller’s army. The eldest brother Józef (1914-43), born in Bosnia, lieutenant of the 34th Infantry Regiment in Biała Podlaska, fought in the defense of Brest (on the Bug), and after the defeat of the September campaign was active in the underground under the *noms de guerre* “Sas”. In May, 1943, as a Silent Unseen, he was transferred to the Middle East. The second brother, Otto (1918-2000), painter, graphic artist, ceramicist born in Hungary, captain of anti-aircraft artillery fighting in General Maczek’s division, remained in England after the hostilities.

In 1922 the family moved to Biała Podlaska and settled in the barracks of the 9th Light Artillery Regiment. In Biała Podlaska **M.** graduated from the Gimnasium and High School named after J.I. Kraszewski, then headed by director St. Damrosz. After

passing his high school diploma, he submitted documents to the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, but his plans were thwarted by the outbreak of World War II.

In 1942 he began underground cadet school and in the spring of 1944 joined the Partisan Unit "Zenon". **M.** was assigned to the cavalry platoon (mounted reconnaissance). He was the only one to wear glasses in the unit, which caused him a lot of trouble during actions. In his spare time, he sketched portraits of his squad mates. **M.** took part in the covering action of extracting a V2 rocket from the Bug River, as well as in picking up 7 American airmen from a bomber shot down by the Germans. In July 1944, in fighting near Grabarka, he lost his beloved mare "Nuna", named after his wife Eve. After the battle he fought, he received from his commander "Zenon" the mare "Iskra", on which, as a parliamentarian, he was sent to the council troops. In order to arrange a meeting with their commander-in-chief. When it turned out that the council army blocked the roads to Warsaw and the division could not help the insurgents, the partisans disarmed in the forest near Zawadki on August 11, 1944 and dispersed to their homes. **M.**, fearing arrest, hid from the NKVD (People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs) at a horse stud in Janów Podlaski, where he worked as a forester, and later as a farrier. While working there, he prepared horses for the WiN authorities.

In 1945, **M.** began his studies at the Academy of Fine Arts in Cracow. After the first semester, he moved to Warsaw. Working at the stud allowed him access to all equestrian centers, studs and sports clubs. He rode in the Warsaw "Legia", among others, in the jumping section. In a short time **M.** became an assistant to Prof. Tadeusz Kulisiewicz, and after graduating in 1951 he became an assistant professor in the Painting Department under Prof. Michał Bylina. Until 1990, **M.** was a lecturer at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, received the title of associate professor, and in 1969-72 was dean of the Faculty of Painting. In the 1950s he was involved in book illustration. **M.** illustrated *Bajki (Fairy Tales)* by Adam Mickiewicz, *Kopciuszek (Cinderella)* by Janina Porazińska, *Lassie, come back!* by Eric Knight.

In 1978, he and his family moved to Gulczewo near Wyszaków, where he settled in a wooden country house, surrounded by a horse paddock and stables. **M.** was the initiator of the development of horseback riding, resurrected the 5th Regiment of Zaslów Lancers in Wyszaków, organized annual horseback pilgrimages from Wyszaków to Częstochowa and from Wyszaków to Podlasie, to the memorial sites of the battles of the Partisan Unit "Zenon". On Maciąg's initiative, there were numerous races, *hubertus* (horsemen's festivities), *sanna* (horse-drawn sleigh ride) and May celebrations of the Horse Day. **M.** supported young people in charity actions, cooperated with the Association of Friends of Wyszaków, Biała and Kamieniecka Puszcza or the Ecological Club. **M.** actively participated in social and public life, taught history lessons at schools, invited students to his home studio, and took part in plein-air painting events organized by the Wyszaków District Office as an art commissioner.

Until 2005, he participated on horseback in all "Zenonian" reunions in Jeziory. He was the author of the project for a monument in Jeziory, commemorating the fallen partisans and residents in the battle of June 30, 1944.

In 2003, **M.** received the L. Benedyktowicz Award for his activities and creative work. On July 12, 2007 he received the title of honorary citizen of the municipality of Wyszaków for his services to the city and for inspiring and co-creating initiatives of a cultural and patriotic nature. **M.** received the rank of cavalier conferred by the Military and Charitable Order of the Knights of Malta of St. Lazarus in Jerusalem.

His painting credits include numerous painting exhibitions at home and abroad, including in England, the Netherlands, Denmark, Germany, the USA, Canada, China, India and Iran. His works are in the collections of the National Museum and the Museum of the Polish Army in Warsaw, as well as in the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris, the Folkestone Gallery and Cassel Galerie in England, and in private collections. Library in Wyszaków has a small collection of the painter's works in its collection.

In the chapel of the Apparition in Leśna Podlaska. on the walls hang paintings donated by **M.**: *Spowiedź Oddziału Zenona* (Confession of the Unit "Zenon"), *Legiony w Leśnej* (Legions in Leśna), *Hold Michałowicza* (Homage to Michałowicz) and *Kasata Klasztoru Paulinów* (Cassation of the Pauline Monastery).

Died on the morning of August 7, 2007 at his home in Gulczewo. The funeral ceremony on August 16 at the Church of Divine Providence in Wesoła was presided over by Antoni Dydycz, Bishop of Drohiczyn. In front of the church stood one of his horses, the 23-year-old stallion "Eos". **M.** was laid to rest at the cemetery in Wesoła in the family tomb, next to his mother Rozalia and his wife Ewa (who died in 1999). He left to mourn his son Zbigniew and grandchildren, Janusz and Joanna. **M.** was posthumously awarded the Commander's Cross of Order of Polonia Restituta.

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Anna KŁOŚ

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