**WŁADYSŁAW BUSZKIEWICZ (1911-1982)**

Władysław Buszkiewicz was born on April 19, 1911 in Malice, Hrubieszów county, Lublin district. He came from a working class background. In 1914, together with his parents Antoni and Ewa, he moved to Łaszczów. A year after Poland regained independence, aged 8, he began to attend the Łaszczów elementary school. His education was interrupted by the Bolshevik invasion, but he completed the school after the war was over. The next stage of his learning was the Mikołaj Kopernik Math and Natural Sciences Gymnasium in Włodzimierz Wołyński (now Volodymyr-Volynskyi).

He first apprenticed, and then took up a job with Hrubieszów Agricultural and Trading Cooperative, Łaszczów branch, where he worked from September 1928 to May 1930. When the branch was shut down, he subsequently worked for two years as a tax collector in Tomaszów county.

At age 21, on March 8, 1932, he entered military service for 18 months, in 6. Battery, 27. Light Artillery Regiment, garrisoned in Włodzimierz Wołyński. There he was dispatched to the NCO School, which he completed cum laude, gaining the rank of corporal. In early October 1933 he was selected as non-commissioned officer in extended service, remaining in the army until September 30, 1935. In the meantime, in June 1935, he graduated from the Math and Natural Sciences Gymnasium in Włodzimierz Wołyński, as a part-time student.

Before completing the extended service, he applied to the Ministry of Military Affairs for a job with the Polish State Railways, and in case of no available jobs there – with post and telegraph service, or with military auxiliary services. He was dispatched to the post and telegraph service, where he spent almost a decade of his professional career. From October 1935 he apprenticed in postal offices in Ludwipol and Chełmno, subordinate to the District Directorate of Post and Telegraph in Lublin. After passing the exam for postal service apprentices, high school level, in July 1937 in Lublin, he transferred to Kowel, where he worked as an assistant in Post Office there.

In April 1938 he was recalled for four weeks’ military exercise for reserve troops, which he spent in County Mobilization Command in Kowel, as platoon scribe. On completion of the exercise he remained in Kowel for a few months, but in September 1938 he requested to be moved to Lublin where his family struggled financially, and he was transferred to the Regional Phone and Telegraph Office there. He joined the State Employees Trade Union in Lublin.

Shortly before the outbreak of the war, in July 1939, he married Leokadia Sarzyńska in St. Paul’s church in Lublin, and a month later he was called up. As an NCO in 3. Light Artillery Regiment from Zamość he took part in fighting at Skarżysko-Kamienna, Starachowice, and Iłża. His troop was destroyed, with Buszkiewicz himself lightly wounded. In search of a combat-ready unit, he arrived in Kowel in Volhynia, where on September 18, 1939, the Barracks Command in Kowel issued him with certification of discharge, as he was unfit for active duty.

On September 23, 1939, the Germans took him prisoner in Piaski near Lublin, but he escaped while escorted in the night of September 23/24 and returned to his place of habitation in Lublin. As the German military police was looking for him, he departed from Lublin in October 1939 and went to live with his parents in Łaszczów. From January 1940 to 1942 he had to escape three more times, as Gestapo in Tomaszów Lubelski was attempting to arrest him. The constant threat from German occupiers prevented him from taking up a job. Not being registered as an inhabitant anywhere, he hid in many locations he knew well in his local area: Kolonia Pieniany, Kolonia Podlodów, Malice, Kotorów, Osada Dębiny.

Since November 1939, Władysław Buszkiewicz served as a soldier in Union of Armed Struggle (from 1942 – Home Army) as platoon sergeant “Głóg” [Hawthorn]. During briefings for the Resistance soldiers, he distributed underground publications for further dissemination. During numerous gatherings in the woods near Tomaszów Lubelski, Buszkiewicz met several times with Zdzisław Szewczyk, a Home Army soldier, who picked up explosives and transported them to Lublin and Lvov. On December 24, 1942, “Hawthorn” co-organized and participated in a raid near Uhnów, on the Rawa Ruska-Czerwonogród railway line, during which a German military transport heading for the Eastern Front was derailed.

From 1941 to the end of 1943 Buszkiewicz served as Łaszczów Region platoon commander in Tomaszów Lubelski Circuit. The Circuit, a part of Zamość Inspectorate, Lublin Home Army District, was commanded at that time by Wilhelm Szczepankiewicz “Drugak”, but Buszkiewicz was directly subordinated to the Łaszczów Region commandant, Jerzy Sobieszczański “Jastrząb” [“Hawk”].

In the summer of 1943, while in the woods near Tomaszów Lubelski, Buszkiewicz ended up in encirclement as the Germans organized a pacification action against the groupings of Home Army and Peasants’ Battalions units, but he managed to sneak out. In January 1944 he was transferred to another circuit in the Lublin Home Army District. He moved to Wólka Bielecka and reported to the commandant of Milejów Home Army Region. Deposition of Home Army soldier Zdzisław Szewczyk states that he was meeting Buszkiewicz, serving as messenger for Lublin Home Army District, in Lublin in early 1944.

In late July 1944, after the Red Army came, he returned to Lublin and to his pre-war job at the Regional Phone and Telegraph Office, where he worked for almost a year as chief cashier and comptroller.

After the end of World War II he did not reveal his underground past to Communist authorities, stating that from the outbreak of the war to August 1944 he was provisionally employed in active duty in Polish Post, Telegraph and Telephone Service.

In August 1945, fearing being found out by secret police, left Lublin area for Sopot, where his wife got a teaching job. Until the end of April 1946 he worked as senior assistant and acting secretariat manager in the local post office, and then he was transferred to the economic division of Post and Telegraph District Directorate in Gdańsk. In December 1946 he passed an exam enabling him to take managerial and inspectional posts, conducted by a Commission at the District Directorate, and in April 1947 he was promoted to junior clerk, with jobs first in Accounts Control, then in General Division and finally in Planning Division of the District Directorate in Gdańsk.

In the meantime, besides working, he constantly improved his skills. In June 1948 he completed three-year law and administration studies at the Administration Sciences School in Łódź, writing a thesis on mail transit through harbors. In December 1948 he passed an exam for graduate junior personnel in postal and telegraph service, three months later completed a basic trade and postal accounting course, and in early April 1949 was promoted to clerk.

Leaving that workplace in April 1950, he got a job with County Economic Planning Commission, County People’s Council Presidium in Gdańsk, and then with Voivodeship Economic Planning Commission, Voivodeship People’s Council Presidium in Gdańsk. He headed the Transport and Communications Division, and then, until 1958, the Transport Co-ordination Division. Made redundant due to administrative reorganization, for the next two years he worked as the manager of Cattle-Raising Complex in Choczewo.

His next place of work was the Harbor Administration in Gdynia. He first worked there as a dispatcher, then as the manager of Transshipment and Storage Base, and from 1963 as senior economist in the Processing Services. In July 1975 he became Complaints and Requests specialist in Legal and Administrative Department. The Harbor Administration was his workplace the longest, from 1960 to the end of August 1976, when he retired.

As the employee of Post and Telegraph Directorate in Gdańsk and the Harbor Administration in Gdynia, he joined first the State and Social Workers’ Trade Union and then the Seamen and Harbor Workers’ Trade Union in Gdynia.

In late 1970s Władysław Buszkiewicz became involved in newly arising anti-Communist opposition. He collaborated with the Free Trade Unions of the Coast and with the Social Self-Defense Committee “KOR”. Department III of the Voivodeship Citizens’ Militia Command in Gdańsk opened an operational investigation case on him on November 25, 1977, codenamed “Emeryt” [“Retiree”], as “collaborating with anti-Socialist elements”. The case files, archived as file no. 17968/II on November 28, 1981, when Buszkiewicz was already very severely ill, were destroyed in 1990.Władysław Buszkiewicz passed away in Gdańsk on January 7, 1982. He lies in the Catholic churchyard at Our Lady of Assumption – Stella Maris in Sopot, with his wife Leokadia Buszkiewicz and her mother Zofia Sarzyńska.