

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

THE FOUNTAIN HILLS TIMES Inside

- Sports
- Religion
- Clubs
- Business
- Crossword
- Legals
- Classifieds
- Fountain Spouts

B
Section

THE FOUNTAIN HILLS
TIMES

Author writes historical record of Poland's WWII involvement

By Barb Charzuk
Times Reporter

When Alicja Maria Zyrmont found a bag of photographs kept secret by her mother for many years, a jigsaw puzzle emerged of Zyrmont's father.

He was a tank commander in the 1st Polish Armored Division, under the command of General Maczek.

Many pieces were missing. She took on the task of researching her father, whom she never knew, and filling in the omissions.

After five years and 10 rejections from American and British publishers, the result is her newly released historical book, "As Long as We Still Live,"

available in paperback and e-book on Amazon.

Zyrmont wrote the book under her Christian name. She said she relied on her father's photography of daily World War II events.

"I tried to offer a snapshot of his short life as he recorded it from 1939 to 1944 war years. He fought honorably and bravely in Poland, France, training in Scotland, and later on D-Day," she wrote.

An excerpt from her book reads:

"On 31 August 1939, at 4:45 a.m., German units staged an incident, a false flag attack on a radio station near the border of the city of Gleiwitz, posing as Polish soldiers, without a declaration of war.

"Thirteen convicted criminals were taken from a concentration camp at Oranienburg in eastern Germany and placed in a schoolhouse to be held until needed for operation code name: 'Operation Canned Goods.'

"The German convicts were the 'goods.' This deception had two phases. On August 31 1939, all but one of the prisoners were ordered to dress themselves in Polish uniforms supplied to them. Then they were administered fatal injections of a drug and transported to a forest near Hochlinde, about 10 miles west of the German-Polish border, where they were shot.

"Their bodies were placed in a scene to make

it appear that they had died while advancing into Germany. Later, foreign journalists were brought in to view the evidence of this false attack.

"Later, they were taken to Gleiwitz, to a radio station, and a soldier speaking Polish broadcast an inflammatory statement announcing that Poland was attacking Germany.

"This orchestrated farce started a world conflict. On Sept. 1, 1939, Adolf Hitler, in a speech before the Reichstag in Berlin, cited this charade at Gleiwitz as a cause of Polish aggression on German soil, and ordered the might of Germany against Poland, thus starting World War II."

Zyrmont has written



numerous mystery and romance novels. Her website, alinkazyrmont.com, lists books available for purchase.