

## Marian Majer (1924-2010)



*Herbert Speed,*

*York.*

Marian Majer before being demobbed in July, 1947.

Marian Majer was born on the 10<sup>th</sup> November 1924 in the small farming village of Konarzynki in Northern Poland. It is situated approximately 102km SW of the regional capital Gdańsk. Marian was nearly fifteen when war broke out in September 1939. At that time he was working on his father's farm as a labourer. He came from a large family of ten children who lived and worked off the land they owned. During his lifetime, Marian didn't share very much about his wartime experiences, except to say that because the place where he lived was situated near the German border he was forcibly conscripted into the German army, a fate which befell other Poles. Towards the latter stages of the war, he escaped from the German Army and joined the Polish Army in Europe (1944). He participated in the battle of Monte Cassino (1944), where he served in the Polish Army's Fourth Armoured regiment. Monte Cassino is a rocky hill situated about 130 kilometres SE of Rome, Italy. When the war ended, Marian had the choice of going to Canada or coming to England. Choosing England, he arrived here in June 1946.

Discussions with Marian's daughter, Christine, and research of surviving documents available have made this account possible.

„DLA UPAMIĘTNIENIA WSPÓLNYCH PRZEŻYĆ W ZSSR, IRAKU, PALESTYNIE, EGIPCIE ORAZ W WALKACH WE WŁOSZACH; DLA UZEWNETRZENIA PRZYNALEŻNOŚCI ŻOŁNIERSKIEJ DO 2 KORPUSU ZARÓWNO W OBECNEJ CHWILI JAK I W PRZYSZŁOŚCI ORAZ CELEM PODKREŚLENIA I WZMOCNIENIA WZAJEMNEJ WIEZI USTANAWIAM

**ODZNAKĘ PAMIĄTKOWĄ 2 KORPUSU**

**LEGITYMACJA**  
**ODZNAKI PAMIĄTKOWEJ 2 KORPUSU**  
 NR **004253.**

NAZWISKO **MAJER**  
 IMIĘ **Marian**  
 STOPNIEN **st.panc.**  
 ODDZIAŁ **Pułk 4.Panc.**

JEST UPOWAŻNIONY DO NOSZENIA ODZNAKI 2 KORPUSU NA PODSTAWIE ROZKAZU **Pułk 4.Panc.**

NR **23/47** (DOWÓDCA) **14.2.47** Z DNIA **14.2.47**

(DATA) **14.2.47** (PODPIS DOWÓDCE (MARIANOWSKI))

WŁADYSŁAW ANDERS  
 gen. dyw.

(Statut Odznaki Pamiątkowej 2 Korpusu, pkt 1, ust. 1. Podstawa: Rozkaz Dowódcy 2 Korpusu Nr 106/46 — część I-a, poz. 619 — z dn. 24.IX.1946r.)

USSR – IRAN – IRAQ- PALESTINE – EGYPT TO ITALY, 1946.

REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE No. **863935**

ISSUED AT **Barnsley Wk**  
 ON **11th July 1947**

NAME (Surname first in Roman Capitals) **MAJER Marian**

ALIAS

Left Thumb Print (if unable to sign name in English Characters).

PHOTOGRAPH

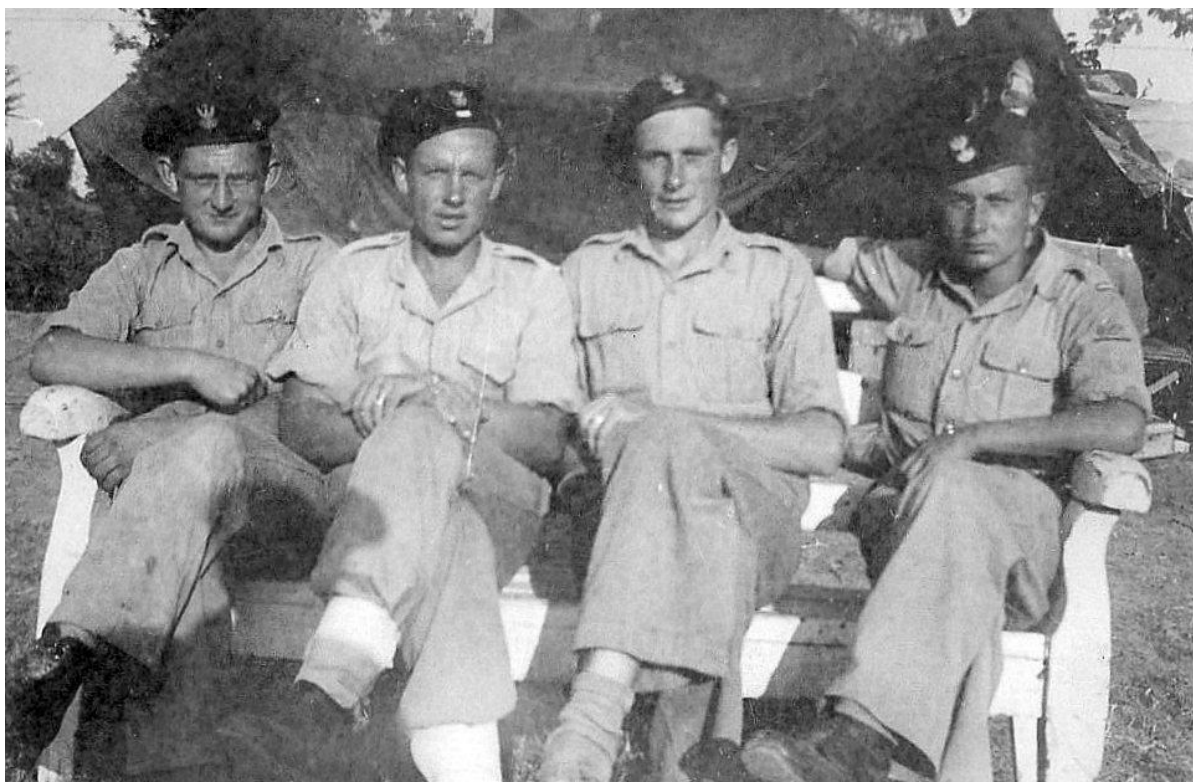
Nationality **Poland**  
 Born on **10.11.24** in **Poland**  
 Previous Nationality (if any) **Labourer**  
 Profession or Occupation **Labourer**  
 Single or Married **Single**  
 Address **Barnsley Hall Camp, Barnsley**  
 Arrival in United Kingdom on **June, 1946**  
 Address of last Residence outside U.K. **Polish Forces, Italy**  
 Government Service **Polish Army 1944-1947**  
 Passport or other papers as to Nationality and Identity **X204**  
**NRIC K.R.T. 6279359**

Signature of Holder } **Marian Majer**

Marian's Certificate of Registration.



Italy; circa 1944.



Polish Army, tank regiment. Marian is first on the left; Italy, 1944.





Polish Army, tank regiment. Marian is first on the right; Italy, 1944.



With the Polish Army, tank regiment on the steps of the destroyed Monte Cassino; Italy 1944.