

**Embassy of the Republic of Poland and the Polish Combatants Association in Canada is proud to present a new documentary**

**“CRAZY BRAVE – My Mother’s Story”**

— the story about resistance fighter Ewa Poninska-Konopacki as documented by her daughter Margaret Konopacki. The debut falls on the 75th Anniversary of the outbreak of the Warsaw Uprising — Aug. 1, 1944. **The screening will be held at the Embassy on Aug. 1, 2019 at 6:00pm at 443 Daly Ave.**

**CRAZY BRAVE - My Mothers Story** is a 35 min. documentary about **EWA PONINSKA- KONOPACKI** a young woman who joined the Polish underground resistance movement in 1944 (called the home army — Armia Krakow AK in Polish) along with other civilians to liberate Warsaw from Nazi occupied Poland. EWA was given the highest award for bravery for her efforts during the resistance movement — The Virtuti Military — Cross of Valour — the most distinguished medal of honour of the time. It is estimated that 16,000 resistance fighters were killed in the 63 day uprising and 6,000 wounded.

Produced, directed by her daughter **Margaret Konopacki**, this short educational documentary captures her mother’s involvement in one of the most tragic and controversial events of the Second World War.

Margaret comments: “ ***This is a very personal story about my mother, and the Warsaw Uprising. Being the child of Polish veterans I was seeped in the culture and polish value system***”

***and I am deeply proud of my parents and my mother's strength, courage and positive outlook. During my own bleakest moments facing unsurmountable bereavement my mom helped me to deal with death — with her steel will, unbendable Catholic faith and still positive view of the world. I feel that today in our challenging planet — more than ever young people need role models like my mom. I made this film for all the participants in the Warsaw Uprising for the AK. Each played an important role in this unforgettable tragedy. I dedicate this film to honor the hero's of the Warsaw Uprising including my mom and dad.***

***Historically, this was the largest single military effort taken by any resistance movement during WWII. This piece of history seems to be missing in our Canadian schools — the question remains — can we learn from the past and not repeat the tragic mistakes? "On Aug. 1st each year we honour the hero's of the Warsaw Uprising and for me they were my mom and dad."***

Many believe the "Warsaw Uprising" (began Aug. 1, 1944) was the greatest betrayal by the Allies as the Polish insurgents (400,000 in the home army AK) fought alone for 63 days expecting reinforcements to come within a week — that never came. The Soviets halted their own offensive and refused to allow allied planes to help resupply the Poles as the Home Army split into disconnected units and was forced to surrender after great casualties (16,000 died) and lack of supplies. Bor-Komorowski and his forces were taken prisoner including my mom and dad (Thaddeus Konopacki)

The Germans then systematically deported the remainder of the Warsaw population and levelled Warsaw to the ground while herding the defeated Home Army into Prisoner of War Camps.

Mom ended up in Oberlangen, Germany and dad in Bergen-Belson.

The uprisings failure allowed the Soviet Government to take over Poland while the Polish Government in exile in London watched helplessly as Warsaw capitulated and was totally and completely destroyed.

### **HISTORICAL FACTS:**

**\*1939 — BEFORE THE SECOND WORLD WAR BEGAN,**

**\*36 MILLION PEOPLE LIVED IN POLAND: 1 MILLION IN WARSAW**

**\*ESTIMATED THAT 16,000 MEMBERS OF THE POLISH RESISTANCE WERE KILLED AND 6,000 BADLY WOUNDED**

**\*200,000 CIVILIANS WERE KILLED MOSTLY FROM MASS EXECUTIONS DURING THE WARSAW UPRISING**

**\*IN TOTAL 6 MILLION PEOPLE DIED IN POLAND DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR — HALF WERE POLISH CITIZENS OF JEWISH DESCENT**

**\*BEFORE IT WAS OVER, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE SECOND WORLD WAR TOOK THE LIVES OF 50 MILLION PEOPLE IN EUROPE**

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