



LWÓW. Plac św. Ducha
LÉOPOL. Place du Saint-E

In his writings Stanislaw Lis longed to return to Poland after WW2.

Representing thousands of Poles who, though unknown, sacrificed for their country and died in exile, my grandfather's voice deserves to be heard.

It is an honour to retrieve him from the pages of history, to allow him to speak again, and to finally bring him back home.



Jennie Milne

POLITICAL REFUGEE

Stanislaw Lis

Born 1903 - Lwow Died 1967 - London

Whilst creating an exhibition based on my grandfathers life to be hung in the gallery of the Warsaw Garrison in Poland, I not only had to trace and portray his life journey through research, records, personal writing and images, but I needed to consider what message I wanted to attach. He was a politician, military hero of the Polish fight for Independence in 1920 and key figure amongst Poland's exiles in the UK and world arena after WW2.

That Poland wanted to remember him and requested my assistance was an unbelievable honour...but did I want to simply present him as a forgotten Polish hero?

Since I have recovered him from the dusty pages of history, I needed to ask myself; *who he has become to me?* What do I take from his life? Where does he fit into my journey?

What does it mean to return his unfinished story to Poland and what would I like others to take from his life?

I have been working in collaboration with Polish Historian Janusz Ral. His military expertise and understanding of Polish history are invaluable. (He also became my translator for the Polish version of the exhibition), However, it was the questions he posed me which made me think very deeply.

“May I also suggest that on the first board the statement “ By allowing his voice to be heard and his deeds to be remembered , we can finally bring him home” is added to by something akin to, “and I can complete the journey he started in 1939 and finish’.

*“You need to be placed at the very beginning of this journey so that the observer sees that you are inviting them to partake in it. You need to understand that every talk, presentation or article that has occurred so far has occurred because people are interested in your journey. You have made them interested. **Stan can only complete his through you** and you need to let the onlooker look at Stan through your eyes.*

The text tells his story.

Your invitation starts with “ I “.

– Janusz Ral

