



STANISŁAW NAZAREWICZ

(Potelicz, Poland, September 3, 1916 – Poland, unknown)



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Stanisław Nazarewicz was a Roma trooper in the Polish army. **Before joining the military he was a musician.** Nazarewicz actively took part in the entire war effort, from the invasion of Poland in 1939 (the first stage of WWII) to the Italian campaign.

At the outbreak of war, Nazarewicz found himself in Lviv. Serving in the Fortieth Children of Lviv Infantry Regiment during the invasion of Poland until the fall of Warsaw, he participated in the defence of the “Warsaw-West” section, and then the protection of the bridges on the Wisła river. Afterwards, captured by the Germans, **Nazarewicz became a prisoner of war.**

Eventually released, after returning to Lviv, he became a subject of the mass arrests carried out by the Soviets and was deported to the Krasnojarski region. There **he struggled to survive**, facing extreme conditions including frost, hunger and malnutrition, diseases (on account of poor hygiene), and gruelling work. However, he managed to survive these extremely harsh conditions, and eventually returned to his homeland.

After that, Nazarewicz **joined the Polish Armed Forces** under the command of General Władysław Anders, serving first in Turkmenistan near Samarkand, and then in Iran. In May 1943, the Polish army was transformed into the Second Polish Corps. Between January-February 1944 and April-May 1944, the Polish army was assigned to the Italian Peninsula, where the regiment would fight. Nazarewicz was among the soldiers who were to liberate Italy. **He took part in the famous Battle of Monte Cassino**, in which he fought in the ranks of the Fourth Carpathian Rifle Battalion, part of the Second Carpathian Rifle Brigade. Injured during the battle, Nazarewicz was awarded the Monte Cassino Commemorative Cross for his bravery and courage. Later during the Italian campaign, he also took part in the Battle of Ancona and participated in the offensive to break the fortifications of the Goth Line at Cattolica. During a three-day battle, Nazarewicz was wounded again. **After the war, in 1947, he finally returned to Poland.**

Nazarewicz received the following decorations for his bravery and heroism:

- Monte Cassino Commemorative Cross
- Cross of Valor for acts of bravery committed during the war
- Africa Star – British Commonwealth award for participation in hostilities in North Africa
- Italian Star – British military award, established by King George VI for participants in hostilities in Italy between June 11, 1943, and May 8, 1945,
- Commemorative badge of the Second Polish Corps of the Polish Armed Forces
- The medal For participating in the 1939 Defensive War – a tribute to persons who actively took part in the war in September 1939 against the Nazis

Sources:

1. Stanisław Nazarewicz's original documents can be found in the Romani Historical Institute in Oświęcim (Poland).
2. Władysław Kwiatkowski, *Zapomniani bohaterzy. Romowie na frontach drugiej wojny światowej*, [Forgotten heroes. Roma on WWII fronts] „Dialog Pheniben” 2018 nr 28.

This biography has been written by Justyna Matkowska