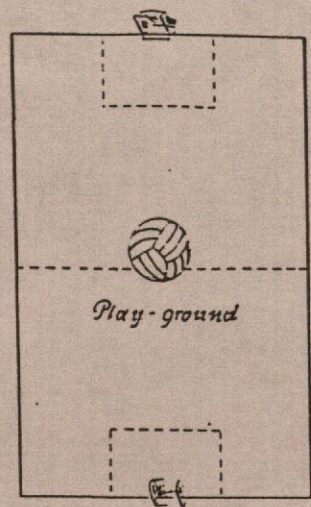


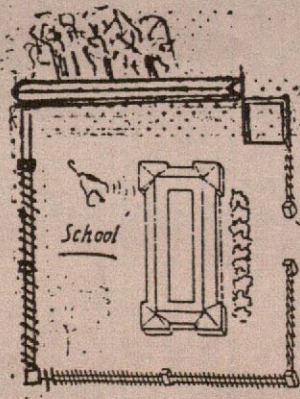
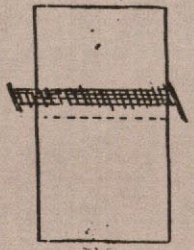
# Polish Children's Camp 1942-46

Hills

v. KIRA

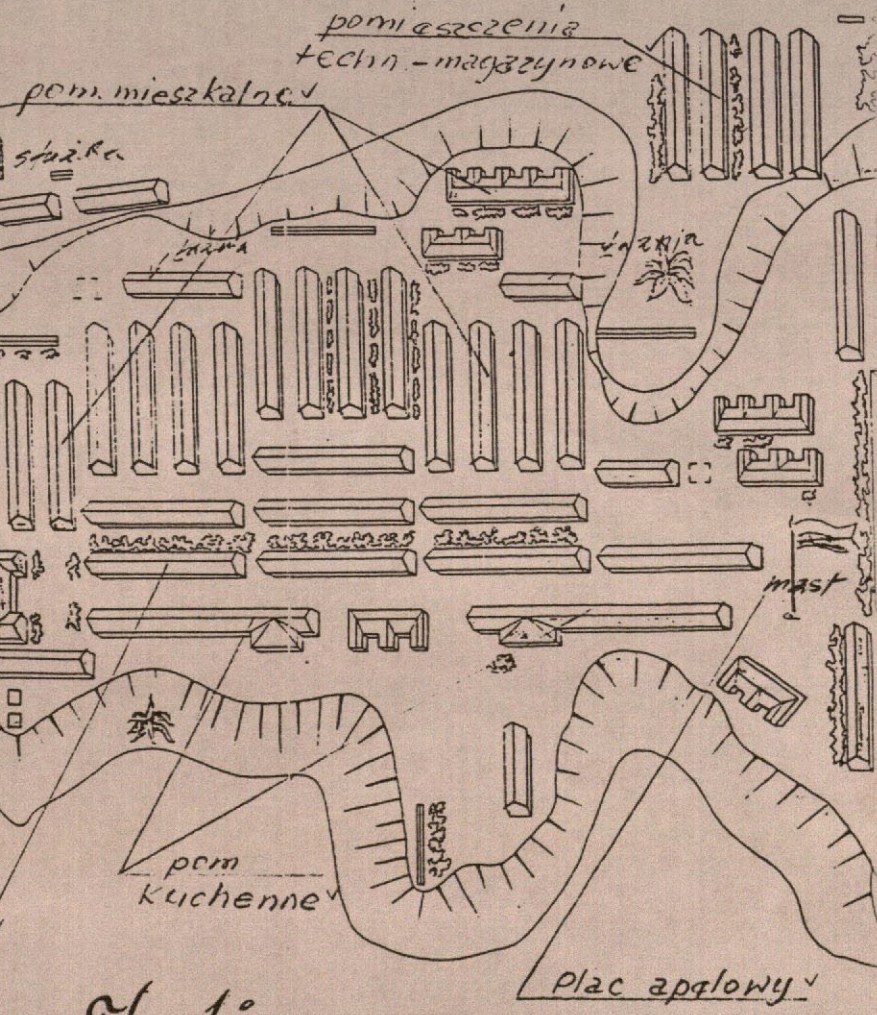


Play-ground



School

światlica



pomieszczenia  
techn.-magazynowe

pom. mieszkalne

szafka

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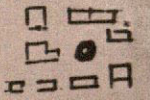
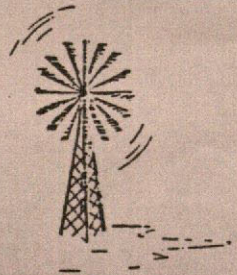
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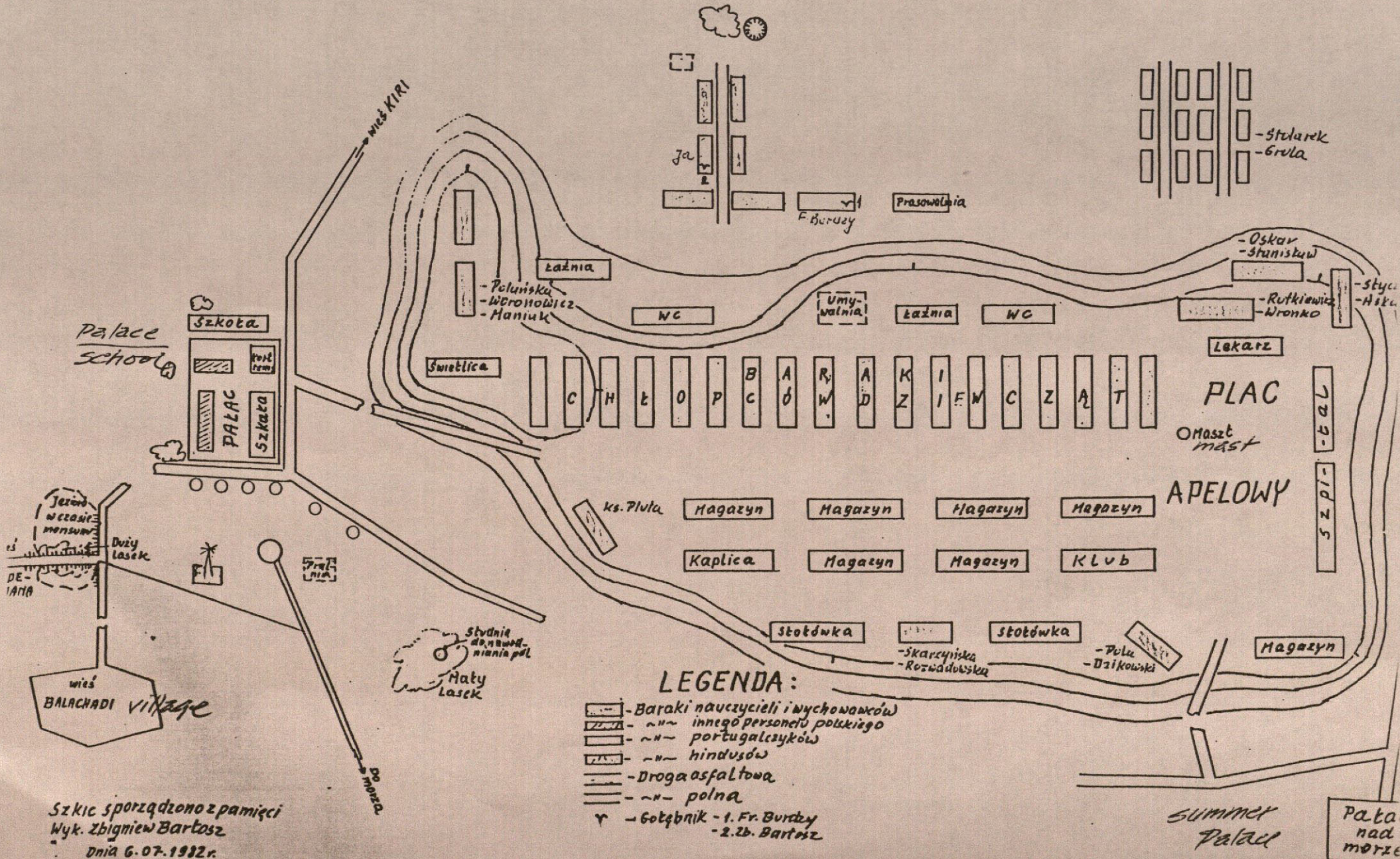
v. NADIANA



v. Balachadi

## India Jamnagar - Balachadi

# SZKIC SYTUACYJNY OBOZU DZIECI POLSKICH W JNDIACH WLATACH 1942-1947



Szkic sporządzono z pamięci  
 Wyk. Zbigniew Bartosz  
 Dnia 6.07.1982r.

SUMMER  
 Palace  
 Pała  
 nad  
 morze

NOTE ON POLISH EVACUEE CHILDREN RECEIVED BY  
H.H. THE MAHARAJA JAM SAHEB OF NAWANAGAR IN  
THE NAWANAGAR STATE.

His Highness was originally approached by the Government of India as to whether he would be willing to receive in the Nawanagar State some 2,000 Greek children evacuees. To this request His Highness assented. Some time later a further communication was received intimating for Greek children read Polish children and for 2,000 read 500. These Polish children were being evacuated from Russia through Persia, Baluchistan and so into India.

His Highness immediately informed the Government of India that he would most willingly receive these Polish children into his territories. Subsequently there was a halt in the negotiations over a considerable period, after which His Highness was informed that the first batch of children were likely to be arriving within six weeks, and a request was made that arrangements might be completed to receive this first batch of children by the end of that period.

The State Authorities immediately took the matter in hand and within six weeks from the receipt of the intimation of the children's arrival a camp consisting of Pukka Masonry buildings, complete with furniture, was in being and ready for their reception. This in spite of the fact that the site chosen for the camp by the representative of the Home Department of the Government of India was some 17 miles from Jamnagar and an equal distance from the nearest railway station, thus entailing the transport of all materials, supplies and labour by road. This meant a great strain on local transport, which, as can be imagined under present circumstances, caused considerable working difficulties for the departments concerned.

The first batch of children, some 260 of both sexes, ranging from between 3 - 16 years of age, accompanied by about 20 adults, duly arrived and were settled in the camp. Madame Banasinska, the wife of the Polish Consul-General in India, accompanied this batch and personally superintended their moving in.

The preparation of the camp entailed not only the clearing of the ground and the building thereof, but the making of a road about a mile in length, extension and installation of telephone communication, installation and erection of necessary machinery to ensure adequate water supply, the laying in of necessary stores, the arranging for and completing of various contracts between local merchants and the camp authorities, and various other formalities; all this done by the State Authorities concerned.

The Resident Polish Doctor was, unfortunately, unable to accompany this first batch and a Doctor was provided by the State Medical Department. Madame Banasinska and the Government of India have since asked that the services of this Doctor be retained even after the arrival of the Polish Lady Doctor.

The second batch of children was unfortunately held up at Quetta owing to heavy floods having destroyed railway communications, but we have heard that they have since arrived and joined the camp. Further Polish personnel are accompanying this second batch of children, bringing the number of children at present arrived in the camp up to some 750.

Subsequently alterations and additions were made to the camp at Balachadi, which is sited adjoining His Highness's own small seaside resort, some 17 miles from the capital city, to enable it to accommodate up to 1,000 children, the balance of whom are due to arrive in the near future.

The camp is again to be extended to enable it to accommodate a further 1,000 children, and His Highness has now consented to receive additional children up to ~~5,000~~<sup>3,000</sup>, for whom another camp is to be erected just outside the capital city of Jamnagar.

Over and above this His Highness has consented to the erection of a special block, adjoining the Irwin Hospital in Jamnagar. This block will be entirely self-contained and utilised for those of the children for whom major medical attention in the central hospital may be necessary.

Balachadi Camp itself has its own hospital, dispensary and ward containing over 30 beds, and the Resident Doctor deals with all minor ailments.

The condition of the children on arrival in India was naturally very poor. It was found that most of them needed dental treatment, while many had to undergo operations for Appendix, Tonsils, etc.

The improvement in the condition of the children after only a few weeks residence in the new camp was most marked. They soon settled down and are most happy in their surroundings.

His Highness has placed at their disposal his gardens, tennis courts and swimming pool, and being adjacent to the sea the elder children can all bathe direct from the sandy shore. His Highness has also given over one of his own buildings adjacent to the camp to be used as a school, where children, among other subjects, are learning English. They also have their own Chapel in the camp.

The present Camp Commandant is a Polish Army Chaplain. His Highness was pleased to approve the appointment

by the Government of India of Mrs. Geoffrey Clarke, the wife of his Personal Assistant, who is a trained nurse and midwife, to act as Liaison Officer between the Camp Authorities and the State Government on the one hand, and the Camp Authorities and the Home Department of the Government of India on the other. This liaison has greatly facilitated the smooth running of the camp.

The health of the children has steadily improved during their residence. Their diet, though simple, is wholesome and ample, and each child gets two full meals daily, besides an early morning breakfast and tea in the afternoon.

The camp is divided into sections intersected with roads, all of which have been named by the inmates, who have planted trees and flowering shrubs wherever feasible. The main road running through the centre of the camp has been given the name of "Digvijaysinhji Avenue". This ceremony took place on the occasion of His Highness's first visit to the camp, a day or two after the children had moved in, when the Polish flag was broken over the camp by Madame Banasinska, wife of the Polish Consul-General in India, while the children sang the Polish National Anthem.

In the new Warsaw to be re-built after the war one of the principal streets will be re-named with His Highness's name after this Avenue in the Balachadi Camp.

The camp staff are able to go into Jamnagar periodically, when they are put up in the State Guest House, and facilities have been granted them to use the Club and other institutions.

August 8, 1942 -

Eliza Spalter

Maria Spalter

Róza Hoch

Zygmunt Mandel

Cyta Roxengarten

} 5 Jewish  
children at  
Aala chadi

Member  
Ass'n Bles  
in London

Mrs. Daniela Sxydl

34 Third Ave.

Acton London W.3 7RT

0181-743-8597

} Informant

"I don't know where in Israel they are"





RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA  
MINISTERSTWO  
SPRAW ZAGRANICZNYCH

Malgorzata Dzieduszycka

Warsaw 06.08.1999.

Mr Kenneth X. Robbins, M.D., LTD.  
5055 Seminarz Road, Suite 108  
Alexandria, Virginia 22311  
USA

Dear Dr Kenneth X. Robbins,

This in to reply to your letter to Mr Sliwinski whose responsibilities I have now taken over.

You have raised my own great interest in the matter of Maharaja of Nawanagar.

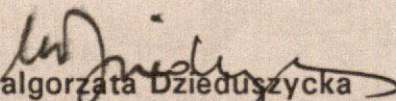
I think you are reffering to the refugee camp for kids in Isfahan. It would be too much of a coincidence if there had been two mahajarahs who took in 1200 orphans from Poland in 1942.

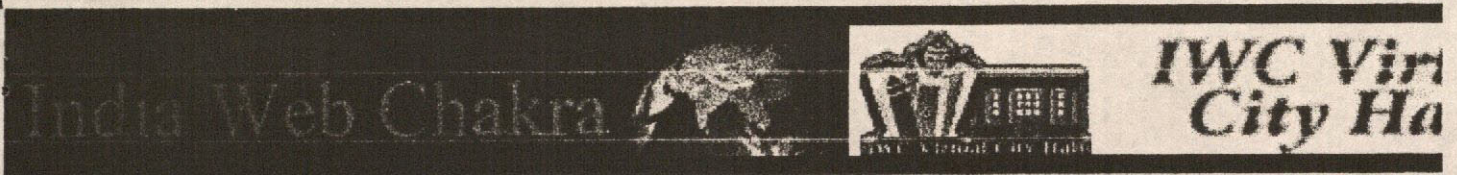
These 1200 kids were refugees from Russia and not from Hitler.

There could be some Jewish children among them, but I can say with a degree of certainty that there could not have been a group of 1200 Jewish children. (Such a thing would long ago have been written about, if not filmed.) Also, I doubt that 1200 Jewish kids would have been repatriated to Poland after the war. Jewish organizations were looking for survivors everywhere by then and most orphaned children were sent to Israel. In fact, most of the Polish Catholic kids were not repatriated either but ended up in Canada, the US, Australia etc. This was without question even more exotic than the camps in Africa, partly because of the presence of the Maharajah.

I shall contunue my reseach and let you know about the results

Please receive my best regards

  
Malgorzata Dzieduszycka



## Jamnagar Re: Jewish children escaping from Hitler rescued by Nawanagar

[ [Follow Ups](#) ] [ [Post Followup](#) ] [ [IWC Jamnagar](#) ] [ [FAQ](#) ] [ [IWC Virtual City Hall](#) ]

This message posted here by [APURVA JADEJA](#) [COMPUTER(S). 202.54.125.236] on July 13, 1999 at 01:49:02:

In Reply to: [Jewish children escaping from Hitler rescued by Nawanagar](#) posted by Ken Robbins on December 05, 1998 at 01:28:03:

**dear ken,**

**Yes the children [jew] had escaped somewhere from poland and somehow they reached northern state of punjab the punjab king had very good relations with nawanagar state and king of nawanagar Jam Ranjitsinji [great cricketer] gave them shelter near Nawanagar now renamed after king as jamnagar a place about 20Kms from jamnagar known as Balachadi where these children were sheltered and treated with medical facilities for many years I have met one Old Doctor namely Dr. Joshi who had treated children and I had also come across one jewish Kid now oldman who is ham radio operator now lives in australia through whom I got info about Dr. joshi at jamnagar later on polish prime minister had visited jamnagar to pay respect and convey thanks to the king of nawanagar and people of jamnagar/balachadi now that building has been converted to children military school.**

Follow Ups:

You may post a Followup

Name:

E-Mail:

Subject:

Comments:

*Copy*  
Pol. 6229/42.

SECRET X X X

Cyph. telegram from Secretary of State to Government of India dated 25th August, 1942.

(No. of words 86).

14960.

External Affairs Department.  
Reference correspondence on Polish refugees resting with your telegram No. 7356 of 22nd December last. Also correspondence with Home Department on Polish children resting with their telegram No. 6200 of the 6th August. Polish Government have reported that 21 Polish Jews with Palestine visas and another 21 evacuated from Burma are being included by you in quota allotted for Polish children from Soviet Russia. They earnestly request reconsideration so as to allow the 42 Jews to stay on in India without prejudice to the children's quota. Can you see your way to agree at least as regards the 21 Jews with no onward visas.

INDIV.

*[Handwritten signature]*  
**SECRET** **XXX**

6953

24666

1942

Allotted to Political Department.

DE CYPHER OF TELEGRAM.

From Government of India, Home Department,  
to Secretary of State for India.

Dated New Delhi 15.15 hours, 10th Sept., 1942.

Recd. 15.00 hours, 10th September, 1942.

7196.

Your telegram No. 14960 August 25th to Department of External Affairs. Polish Government report not correct.

3. (sic) Please refer to your telegram 8192 of July 15th and previous correspondence. We originally agreed to reception of 270 Polish subjects under certain conditions. Poles arriving under this scheme are for convenience classed as officially-sponsored evacuees. Visas granted to adult escorts only of Polish children were set off against quota of this class.

4. 21 Poles from Burma may remain India if included in above quota; otherwise may proceed to Palestine for which visas are available.

5. Other Poles arrived India in transit with Palestine visas. Our standing policy requires all foreigners in transit to fulfil the condition of entry into India by proceeding to destination

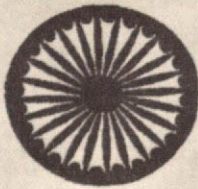
/if

if possible. Exceptions are made where individuals can find work in India of national importance or would have qualified for ordinary visa. These Poles satisfied neither condition and expulsion orders were accordingly issued on their indicating refusal to depart and Polish Consulate-General's failure to agree to inclusion in sponsored quota. For some months he had professed want of authority and only when informed that expulsion orders would be enforced did he refer matter to Polish Government.

6. We would emphasise that there has been no discrimination against Poles in transit.

U.T.P.

---



# KOŁO POLAKÓW Z INDII

Association of Poles in India 1942-1948

Mr. Ken Robbins  
11305 Rouen Drive  
Potomack  
Maryland 20854  
U.S.A.

Secretary:

MRS. W. KLESZKO  
FLAT 18, CLEVERLY ESTATE  
WORMHOLT ROAD  
LONDON W 12 0LX  
ENGLAND

tel: 0181-749-6190

Lp: 35/1999-2000

London 29.8.1999

Dear Mr. Robbins,

As promised during our telephone conversation I am sending you a copy of Special Supplement to Bulletin 16 -1998. Bulletins are published in Polish twice a year for members of Association.

Our Association came to organised life in Spring 1990 and presently is 453 strong, settled in various countries, including our native Poland.

Awaiting your further communications

I remain yours truly

*W. Kleszko*  
Wiesława Kleszko

Enclosure.

## About our organization.

The Association of Poles in India 1942-48 consists of people who - 50 years ago - as children or young people, spent 5 years in India, during the 2nd World War. Majority of us come from Eastern Poland, which after 17.9.1939 found itself under Soviet occupation. In 1940-41 we were deported to labour camps in Siberia and Kazakhstan - youthful victims of the inhuman regime then reigning in Soviet Russia.

When the Russo-German war broke out in June 1941, an agreement was signed between the Western Allies, Russia and the Polish Government in Exile. Polish prisoners and deportees in Russia were freed and allowed to join the Polish Army, which was formed in Russia under general W.Anders, to fight the then common enemy, Germany. When this army left Russia for the Middle East, some of the civilian population - families and orphans of the soldiers - were allowed to go with them. They were placed in Refugee Camps in Persia, Africa and India. Members of our organization spent the rest of the war in settlements in Karachi, Jamnagar, Valivade and Panchgani. There were over 5000 of us, mainly women and children. When the war ended, we had to leave hospitable India. Some of us returned to Poland; others, who were unwilling to live under a communist regime, settled in Western Countries.

The aim of our organization is the upkeep of the friendships and associations made in those days. We also collect and publish documents and accounts of that short but poignant period in Polish history.

### MARIAN FATHERS

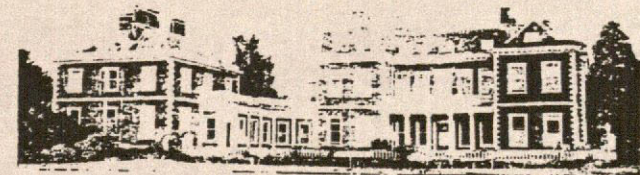
Marian Fathers bought Fawley Court in 1954. Father J.Jarzębowski established here Divine Mercy College which served generations of young boys till 1986. After the closure of the school, half of the old College buildings was refurbished into Pilgrims' House to serve as a prayer and retreat centre for various groups, both Catholic and Anglican, as well as individuals.

## Kim jesteśmy.

Koło Polaków z Indii 1942-48 zrzesza ludzi, którzy 50 lat temu, w czasie II Wojny Światowej, spędzili 5 lat w Indiach. Większość z nas pochodzi z Kresów Wschodnich, skąd w latach 1940-41 zostaliśmy deportowani na Syberię lub do Kazachstanu, do ciężkich robót - młodociane ofiary systemu politycznego panującego wówczas w ZSSR.

Po wybuchu wojny niemiecko-rosyjskiej w czerwcu 1941 i umowie polsko-sowieckiej, powstała na terenie Rosji armia polska pod wodzą gen. Andersa, a gdy udawała się ona na Środkowy Wschód pewnej ilości cywilnych rodzin i sierot wojskowych udało się też opuścić Rosję. Umieszczono ich w obozach uchodźczych w Persji, Afryce lub Indiach. Członkowie naszego koła spędzili resztę wojny w osiedlach Karachi, Jamnagar, Valivade lub Panchgani. Było nas ponad 5000, głównie kobiet i dzieci. Po zakończeniu działań wojennych część uchodźców wróciła do Polski. Większość, rozgoryczona umową w Jałcie i oddaniem Polski pod wpływ komunistycznej Rosji, osiedliła się w krajach zachodnich.

Celem naszej organizacji jest utrzymanie silnych związków koleżeńskich zawiązanych w tamtych latach; samopomoc koleżeńska; oraz zbieranie i publikowanie materiałów dotyczących tego krótkiego, lecz istotnego okresu polskiej historii.



Henley-on-Thames, Oxon. RG9 3AE Tel: 0491-574917

### NASI GOSPODARZE.

Ojcowie Marianie kupili Fawley Court w 1954. Ojciec J.Jarzębowski założył tu szkołę - Kolegium Miłosierdzia Bożego - która wychowywała wiele roczników polskich chłopców. W 1986 szkołę zamknięto a jej budynek zamieniono na Dom Pielgrzyma. Korzystają z niego liczne grupy społeczne i religijne, oraz indywidualne osoby.

BRITISH LIBRARY - INDIA OFFICE RECORDS

Polish Refugee Camps in India : files referred to.....

Kolhapur & Deccan States Agency files -

R2 (952/76) Valivade Camp, public order, food supply, reg. of foreigners

R2 (953/82) more of the same + repatriation & UNRRA 1945-46

R2 (992/624) History of Kolhapur

R2 (954/91&92) Kolhapur succession

R2 (949/97) demise of the Maharaja

R2 (1021/1060) Panhala inscriptions

L/P&J/8/412 Coll.110.N1 Acceptance of Poles in India, staffing of the Camp + accom.

L/P&J/8/413 building & equipping of the Camp

Pol 8899/42 & Pol 7380/43 re. Jamnagar

Coll /C/1 & Coll/N/2 Polish Children Camps

L/P&J/414 (Coll.110/N/3) Balachadi being closed

415 (Coll 110/N/3A/B ditto

L/AG/40/1/1 Camp expenditure

L/AG/40/1/131 (RRO/A-5) Principal Refugee Officer cpt. Webb-memos

L/AG/40/1/20 (PRC A-20) Balachadi Camp (?) cash books

L/AG/40/1/169 (PRC/A-25) maintenance allowance +acc. for children outside camps

---

other archives: Archiwum Akt Nowych (New Archives) in Warsaw, Poland

Public Records Office, Kew, London

Polish Institute & Sikorski Museum, London (files; Banasinski collection

file 129, Ministry of Education A23 & A19, Chronicles of Valivade

useful addresses: Excel Tours & Travel, shop no.7 Thorat Towers, 1115-K,

Sykes Extension, Kolhapur-416001. tel/fax 0231 531 507/521 576

M.A.Kulkarni, Gen.Man. Hotel Shalini Palace, Rankala, Kolhapur-416010

tel 620401 fax 0231 620 407 cable "SHALOTEL"

col. Vijay K. Gaikwad (ret) Ex-servicemen Association (president)

430 'E' Vishwas Chambers, Assembly Road, Kolhapur-416 003

tel 0231 652 407

Mr. I. Makles, Consul of the Republic of Poland

Manavi Apts., 36 Ridge Road Malabar Hill Mumbai- 400 006

tel 363 46 78 & 363 38 63/64 fax (091-22) 363 33 76

---

RESUME OF POLISH CAMPS ETC.

Bombay (Polish Consulate & other offices) 17 Oct.1939-12 Oct. 1946

Bandra nr. Bombay (temporary orphanage) 12 Apr 1942-15 Aug 1942

Panchgani (convalescent homes) Apr 1942- Dec 1946

Balachadi nr Jamnagar (the orphanage) 18 Aug 1942- 1 Nov 1946

Country Club nr Karachi (transit camp) 4 Nov 1942- 2 Oct 1945

Malir nr Karachi (temporary camp) 29 March'43-18 Aug 1943

Valivade nr Kolhapur (mixed settlement) 23 July 1943-22 Feb 1948

---

compiled by Jan K. Siedlecki (vice chairman of the Ass.of Poles from India)

21 West Oak, The Avenue, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 5EZ

tel/fax 0181 650 9029



*Letter has been*

29th October, 1942.

In continuation of my letter of the 19th September, I write to inform Your Highness that the Government of India have now agreed to accept 20 more Polish children, of whom it is proposed that the first 2,000 should be accommodated in Jamnagar. The Maharaja of Patiala has offered to take the remainder provided special arrangements can be made for a camp.

If the Polish Government agree, as no doubt they will, the Government of India contemplate arrangements being made in the first instance for accommodating the new arrivals in a further camp in Jamnagar, batches of 500 children at a time being sent there as soon as the accommodation is ready. Satisfactory financial arrangements have been made with the Polish Government with the approval of His Majesty's Treasury.

(Sd) P.J. PATRICK.

Colonel His Highness the  
Maharaja Jam Sahib of Rewanagar,  
C.C.I.E., K.C.S.I.

Pol. 8899/42

DRAFT LETTER

A. W. G. Randle, Esq.,  
Foreign Office,  
S.W.1.

28 OCT 1942

152

In continuation of my letter of the 19th  
October, No. Pol. 8852/42, regarding Polish evacuee  
children in India, <sup>you may like to have</sup> ~~I enclose~~ <sup>the enclosed</sup> a copy of a note  
~~written, at our request, by Major Geoffrey Clarke,~~  
~~an officer of Nawanagar State, who is in attendance on~~  
~~Private Secretary to His Highness The Maharaja~~

*copy*

*during his visit  
to the country.*

Jam Sahib, on the arrangements made for the  
children in the Nawanagar State.

*Major Clarke's note was  
written at our suggestion  
as he did not appear to  
have any direct information  
of what had been done in  
the State.*

The Nawanagar State authorities appear to  
have done a <sup>fine</sup> ~~splendid~~ piece of work and I suggest  
that a copy of Major Clarke's note might be sent  
to the Polish Government, who will doubtless be  
much gratified by the pleasing picture he has  
drawn.

2044

(Sd.) R. N. GILCHRIST

Pol. 8899/42

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(Sd.) R. N. GILCHRIST

R.N. Gilchrist, Esq., C.I.E.,  
India Office

Recd. 29.11.42  
Vice Pol. Dept.  
FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.I.

November 5<sup>th</sup>  
9244  
5th November, 1942

Reference letter of Oct 28<sup>th</sup>  
from Mr Gilchrist to Mr Randall  
No Pol. 8899/42.  
No. W 14524/87/48

My dear Ambassador,

I enclose a copy of a note on arrangements made for Polish children evacuated from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics who have been received by the Maharaja Jam Sahib of Nawanager in his territories. This note has been written by Major Geoffrey Clarke, an officer of the Nawanager State who is in attendance on the Maharaja during his visit to this country. The picture drawn is a pleasing one and I think you will agree that the Nawanager State authorities have done an excellent piece of work.

Believe me,

My dear Ambassador,

Yours sincerely,

REC'D. POL. DEPT.  
7 NOV 1942  
INDIA OFFICE

His Excellency

Count Edward Raczyński,

Polish Embassy,

47, Portland Place, W.1.

*15-20,000 to be accounted for over a year in Africa*

*H. Gibson*

(W 15133/5130/G).  
SECRET.

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.  
17th November, 1942.

9478  
1942

Dear Gibson,

We must, I fear, once more ask for the assistance of the India Office over the problem of the Polish civilians in Persia. Although the East African colonies have taken them in up to practically their limit of accommodation, and 1,000 are to be received in Southern Rhodesia, there are still some 25,000 for whom an alternative destination must be found. Their continued presence in Persia is a serious embarrassment, military, political and economic, and we receive repeated reminders of the urgent necessity of getting as many as possible removed. We thought we had found a complete solution when we induced the Mexican Government to receive them; then, when that hope faded on account of insuperable difficulties of shipping from the Persian Gulf to America, we again thought we should solve our problem to a substantial extent with the moving of 25,000 Italian prisoners of war from East Africa to the United States so leaving places to be filled by not less than 12,000 Poles. This hope, too, is dashed by the impossibility of obtaining military escorts for the prisoners to cross the Atlantic, and by the extreme difficulty of shipping, the details of which I need not describe here.

As the result of a discussion with the War Office and Ministry of War Transport we have discovered that the most promising solution, from the point of view of shipping, involves the use, if it is at all possible to arrange it, of India either as a destination or a transit territory, or both. A substantial transport of Poles from Persia is at present taking place via India; I understand this could, so far as shipping is concerned,

18 0V 942  
INDIA OFFICE

J.P. Gibson, Esq.,  
India Office.

concerned, continue almost indefinitely. But the agreed limit of reception in Africa is getting near. On the other hand, removal from Bombay to America, probably in large numbers in one or two ships, might be practicable in the next few weeks and the suggestion has been made that if a reserve camp could be built up near Bombay then all opportunities could be taken as they arise to remove the Poles. Alternatively, or as a complement to this suggestion, there is the idea that, as Nawanagar and Patiala have been so helpful in providing war-duration accommodation for Polish children, it might be possible to push these doors a little more widely open and get a substantial number of the adults included. There is, finally, the suggestion that other Native States, such as Mysore or Hyderabad; might be appealed to. Their help could be invoked on both humanitarian and political grounds. By allowing their territory to be used to accommodate these Polish civilians for the duration of the war they would not only relieve a vast amount of suffering, but would give most valuable help to the united war-effort, at present embarrassed by the presence of these unfortunate people in Persia.

*Indiau*

We should therefore be grateful if the India Office could urgently consider recommending to the Government of India:

- 1) the provision of a large transit camp near Bombay;
- 2) the possibility of getting the rulers of Patiala and Nawanagar to include a good number of adults/

adults in their hospitality, already so much appreciated for the Polish children; 3) the possibility of an urgent appeal to other rulers of states which are not too unsuitable climatically for the reception of Polish women and children.

\* I am sending a copy of this letter to Commander C.A. Jenkins (Admiralty); Colonel Evelyn Smith (War Office: Prisoners of War Section); Lieutenant-Colonel Wright (War Office: Q.M.2); Colonel Bainbridge (War Office: S.D.2);- Dixon (Ministry of War Transport); S.W. J.N. Wood (Ministry of War Transport); Sir Harold Satow (Foreign Office: Prisoners of War Department);  
9. Kimber (Dominions Office); and Sidebotham (Colonial Office).

<sup>A.B.</sup>  
Yours sincerely,  
A.W.G. Randall

Wentworth  
P. W. S. W.

# REFUGEES' TREK TO INDIA

## POLISH CHILDREN ARRIVE

From MARTIN MOORE,  
Daily Telegraph Special Correspondent  
NEW DELHI, Wednesday.

A party of 280 Polish child refugees from Russia, who have just arrived in India, have joined 800 others in a camp specially built for them at the seaside resort of Balachadi, on land given by the Jam Sahib of Nawanager.

Arrangements now being made will probably result in a total of 11,000 Polish children finding asylum in India for the duration of the war.

The children are victims of the invasion of Poland. Driven from their homes, many thousands drifted to Southern Russia. Most of those coming here are orphans whose parents died of typhus.

Their long trek, chiefly in Red Cross trucks, across Persia and Baluchistan, has taken many weeks, and a large number of them are still suffering from the effects of famine and disease. Poles now form the largest contingent among India's refugees.

### FLOCKING TO SAFETY

Few people realise that destitute people have been flocking here, not only from the Far East but also from the Near and Middle East.

There are also large numbers from the Balkans, chiefly Greeks. The threat of war drove others from Persia, Somaliland, Djibuti and Aden. They include French, Austrians, Rumanians, Australians and Canadians. There are also numerous Anglo-Chinese, Anglo-Burmese and Anglo-Malayans.

Many of the European refugees, although holding British passports, cannot speak a word of English.

The most unexpected refugee community to be found here is the Maltese, about 600 of whom live in camp at Bharatpur. They came from Turkey, where they had been established for generations.

A new Turkish law gave them the choice of taking Turkish nationality or leaving the country. As they could not be repatriated to Malta, India offered them a temporary home.

Apart from these exiles, who are supported in camps, there are thousands of European, Indian, Malayan, Burmese and Anglo-Asiatic people who have been swept into India by the Japanese advance.

They cannot be classed as refugees because they are now self-supporting or have found homes with relatives. Many of them are doing important war work in India.

*Secy. Political Dept.*

*Place on  
an file.  
R.A.  
18/12*

*adults*





Date: Wednesday, November 10, 1999 6:21:30 AM  
Subj: Re: Draft letter to Cdr. Lamba  
To: Raj@rcpatel.freemove.co.uk

As to the history surrounding the Polish refugees in India, a lot of stuff is being unearthed by the Poles themselves and indeed by Dr Ken Robbins right now. Well researched books and articles are being written and no doubt will be published in time to come. As is usual in such cases, real history and bardic history are two different things. There is more romance in bardic history and one is tempted to accept it in place of the real history.

During the last few days I had an opportunity, through the kind courtesy of Dr Robbins to actually meet people who lived at Balachadi, Panchgini and Valivade (near Kolhapur). These thoughts are a brief précis of these meetings. Please treat these notes as rough sketch and not accurate history. Here is what happened to the Balachadi children.

1. Second World War proper started when Germany attacked Poland but prior to launching the attack the Germans concluded a peace treaty with the Soviets, known as Molotov Ribbentrop pact. This pact split Poland in two halves such that Russians were in control of the eastern half. Russians conducted a plebiscite in their half of Poland and claimed that some 98% of Poles wished to join the Soviet Union. Those whom Russians considered as troublemakers (present and future) were deported to Russian Labour camps. Apparently anyone any organisational ability was so deported. Thus, if you were chairman of a local chess club you would be a prime candidate for deportation! The deportees ended up as far as Siberia and Kazakhstan.

2. Here they were kept in labour camps. However, when the Germans attacked the Soviet Union in June 1941, they captured huge chunks of Soviet territory and went as far as Stalingrad and thereby exposing the Polish refugees to the war.

3. A tri-partite agreement was signed between the Western Allies, Soviet Union and The Polish Government in Exile (then based in London) whereby the Polish deportees in Russia were freed and allowed to join the Polish

free army, that was formed in Russia under General W Anders.

4. This army was to fight the Germans who were by now well entrenched in Russia. A sensitive issue is that some people believe that only the Catholic or Christian Poles were allowed to join such units and not the Jewish ones who, one would speculate, that they perished in one or the

other 'cleansing' exercises. Soldiers joining were told that their families would be looked after. By this stage, a number of children had become orphans because their parents had died in the privations of the labour camps and were being looked after by other camp inmates. Some Polish Catholics continued to look after Jewish children who were orphans.

Several of these ended up in Balachadi. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED].

5. When this army left Russia for the Middle East, their families also went with them (!) and were initially placed in refugee camps, mostly in Persia. So, you see Dinesh, there is no ship so far.

6. At that time, a lorry/train route from India supplied the armies in the Middle East (I believe so but I amnot 100% sure) and it was decided that empty lorries returning should carry children and families of the Polish soldiery. Bearing in mind that the refugee camps in Iran (or Persia as the Poles still call it) had orphans and other children who had their mothers with them. The Balachadi lot came in two batches of circa 600 each. The first batch came from Russia into Aszchabad, Meszhed, Zahedan, Quetta, Lahore, Delhi, Bombay, Ahmedabad and Jamnagar. (There is a reason for this circuitous route - See below)

7. The second batch headed west to Tehran and from there to Isfahan, Zahedan, Khaipur, Hydrabad (Pakistan), Ahmedabad and Jamnagar. So, the first time they saw sea since leaving home in 1939 was when they were at Balachadi!

8. As far as the circuitous first route is concerned, it may be that this was taken because there were plans to set up a camp at Patiala instead of Jamnagar. I enclose herewith a map drawn by one of the Polish children. The two routes are shown clearly.

9. The Kolhapur lot ended up at the top of the Persian Gulf somewhere near Kuwait and were shipped from there to Bombay and then by train to Kolhapur.

10. After the war, Yalta Conference (remember this carve up?) decided

that Poland would be under the Soviet sphere of influence and a Communist Government took hold in Poland and naturally claimed the Balachadi children as its citizenry and they all (or mostly all) ended up in Warsaw. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED].] Balachadi camp had a number of problems one of which was Malaria. Others were distance from nearest hospital and indeed fresh water was an issue even then. So, in 1946, the two camps, Balachadi and Valivade were merged as one. By now of course, the Polish Government (The communist one) was in place and did not wish to continue to finance these camps and it was imperative that there was a repatriation back to Poland. Besides, the British were on a shaky wicket in India and were packing their bags as well. [

11. By and large, the Kolhapur lot was shipped to East and Southern Africa and Rhodesia from where a huge number settled in England, USA and Canada. The Association of Poles in India is some 450 strong. The Balachadi lot had an association in Poland, which they called Children of Jamnagar. This has been merged with the Association of Poles in India since 1964/65. [REDACTED]

12. As far as Balachadi was concerned, I believe that the actual campsite was the Hostel plateau on which we have Garuda, Angre, Shivaji, Pratap and Tagore houses. I attach herewith a hand drawn map, which roughly corresponds to the plan of the plateau. Thus, their school must have been where the old riding school ruins were. I have seen many photos of Balachadi as it then was and am currently working towards organising a collection for the school.

So Dinesh, you see our school has history. I firmly believe that a permanent exhibition to show the history, life at Balachadi camp, and most importantly a full list of all who were there should be held permanently in the school library. I do not mind collecting the material needed and setting up a small exhibition on a permanent loan basis to the school. This way at least no one should take anything away.

The children are old. Their memory is failing. If you can arrange for an aerial shot of the whole of Balachadi, showing the school, the village, Dargah, Temple, the summer palace, Kiri Village etc. then a lot of very old people would indeed be most grateful. Also, please expose a roll or two of

shots showing the village, the dam, Kiri village, and all old buildings in the school grounds etc.

Those of whom I have met have very pleasant memories of Balachadi and would be greatly comforted that today's children of Balachadi care. A tear or two drops at the mere mention of Balachadi from their old eyes. All very moving.

With kind regards,

Raju Patel.

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<DIV>Dear Ken,</DIV>

# Poland remembers a Jamsaheb's kindness

MARAT SUKHPARIA AND  
BHANDRAKANT BHATT  
JAMNAGAR, MARCH 3

THERE'S more than a little part of Balachadi alive in Poland. Grateful to his town, the Children of Balachadi club plants a street in Warsaw named after the late Maharaja Jamsaheb Digvijaysinhji Jadeja. The story begins with the German invasion of Poland during World War II. In town, some 25 km from here, was given to about 1,200 children orphaned by the war and their 40 women wards who were put on board a ship and left to their fate by Nazi captors.

That was in 1939. Maharaja Jamsaheb Digvijaysinhji Jadeja had offered solace to them, learning that they had wandered from port to port for five months, with nations rejecting their entry, although they were provided with food.

Jamsaheb Shatrushaiyasinji, son of the late Maharaja, said his father was then a member of the imperial war council as a

representative of the Indian States in London at that time. The Polish premier in exile had met him and urged him to offer solace to the people on board the ship, which at that time was in the Indian Ocean.

By the time the Maharaja returned to Bombay, the Polish ship had also anchored at the Bombay harbour.

The Maharaja went to the ship and instructed its captain to sail to Rozi port of Jamnagar.

Maharaja also met the then British Governor of Bombay province but failed to convince him to allow the Polish refugees to land at Jamnagar. But the Maharaja said he would take them as his personal guests, not as political refugees. He would thus be breaking no conventions.

So the children and women were sheltered in tents provided with all facilities near the Irwin Hospital, where now the medical college complex stands. The Maharaja provided them with medical care, food, and water.

Soon he moved them to his premises in

Balachadi, arranged for their education—in Polish—and looked after their upkeep. Not a penny from the state treasury was touched; the Maharaja spent his own money on them, for they were his guests.

Till 1946 they remained there, and then, after peace was restored in Europe, he arranged for their departure home.

The grateful children formed the club, and their descendents have joined it too. Now it is 12,000 members strong.

The Polish government, however, expressed its gratitude to the state when in April 1989, Tadeusu Szelachowski, deputy chairman of the council of state of the Polish People's Republic, had a memorial installed in front of the Sainik School Complex in tribute to the Maharaja's generosity.

This was presented as a memento to the Maharaja's successor Shatrushaiyasinji.

Meanwhile, the Children of Balachadi are not satisfied with the Polish government's proposal to name a Warsaw street



The bronze memorial installed at Balachadi in Jamnagar. Newline photo after Balachadi. They insist on having it named Digvijay Street, after a kindly Maharaja who plucked them out of stormy seas and made royal guests of them.

R C Patel FCA

14 Bell Meadow  
Dulwich Wood Avenue  
London SE19 1HP

15 August 1999

Dr Kenneth X Robbins  
5055 Seminary Road  
Alexandria  
VA 22311  
USA

**By Fax 001 301 299 2986**

Dear Dr Robbins

I am sending an advance copy of this letter by fax so that you can carry on your research while the snail mail is on its way.

May I first of all say that I am stunned by the amount of material published by you. I am very interested in reading some of it. I will contact you on another occasion to see how I can get hold of the articles.

As to the polish children, I enclose herewith a photocopy of the article which I think was published in The Times of India although I am not absolutely sure. I also enclose herewith a photograph of the memorial, which I took in 1989. I would translate the Hindi text as follows:

Pranam (salutations) to the land of Jamnagar  
Which, during the hard years of 2<sup>nd</sup> World War  
gave shelter to thousands of Polish children  
and welcomed them as guests. Grateful are the  
Polish people and those polish children who  
Stayed here during the years of 1942 to 1946.

Hail O far away land thou art  
gratifying and of compassion.  
(**Last line is not legible**)

My translation should not be relied upon as I am not a trained translator and My Hindi is rusty. I am sure Polish to English translation will make more sense

I also enclose herewith a photocopy of the visitor's book, which was signed by few of the boys who visited in 1986.

I have permission from my friend to give you her address, which is as follows:

Mrs Mary Allen,  
47 Forest Road,  
Tunbridge Wells,  
Kent TN2 5AL.  
England.

Tel: 01892 536495

You may have to figure out the area code for Tunbridge Wells where she lives. Th above number is as I dial from London. As I explained, her father was either employed by HH Digvijaysinhji or was connected in some way. She remembers the children very well. She told me that the religious service was a mixture of Catholic and Jewish practice.

I showed the list of names to my senior partner who did not immediately recognise the names as Jewish. Obviously a lot more research needs to be done.

My telephone numbers are:

Home: 0181 670 4516 (also a fax)  
Work: 0171 493 7302  
Fax (Work): 0171 493 4120

My office is in central London and it will be a pleasure to meet you in October. If you have been unsuccessful in contacting Commander Lamba, I will do so for you when you are here. I doubt very much if he will sell the album to you as it really belongs to the school. The school trains cadets for the Indian Army and it may not be appropriate to ask. However, he may not object to copies being made.

May be we can both visit Mrs Allen whom I have not yet met although we have had some long telephone conversations. She went to Jamnagar some years ago and met Commander Lamba.

I hope the enclosed material will be of some use to you.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely,

Raj Patel.

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

To: **Dr Kenneth X Robbins**  
Company:  
Fax number: **+1 (301) 2992986**  
Business phone:

From: **Raj Patel**  
Fax number: **+44 (0181) 670 4516**  
Home phone:  
Business phone:

Date & Time: **15/08/1999 17:16:30**  
Pages sent: **3**  
Re: **Polish Children at Balachadi 1942-1946**



# Royal Families and Palaces of Gujarat

*Hansdev Patel*

by Dr Hansdev Patel

*Page 54*

In 1942AD, the British government in Bombay would not give much assistance to a Polish ship that had escaped the unwelcome attention of German warships, and Jam Saheb Digvijay Sinhji personally helped them land at Bedi port and gave them a refugee camp at Balachari, a fact acknowledged even today by the Polish government.



SCORPION  
CAVENDISH

LONDON



1998

# Association of Poles in India 1942-1948

Special Supplement to BULLETIN Nr.16 - 1998.

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POLISH EAGLE IN KOLHAPUR

इ.स. १९४३ ते १९४८ या कालावधीत  
 ल्हापूर संस्थानाने ५००० पोलंड देशाच्या निर्वासित  
 गरिकाना वलीवडे येथे जो आश्रय दिला,  
 तःकरणपूर्वक आदरातिथ्य केले त्यावद्दल  
 नःपूर्वक धन्यवाद

अखिल जगतात विखरलेले आम्ही,  
 भारतातील स्नेहपूर्ण सदभावनात्मक सहकार्याचे  
 भातत्याने स्मरण करतो

इ.स. १९९८ साल हे आमच्या  
 निर्गमनाला ५० वर्षे पूर्ण होत आहेत  
 भारतातील पोलिस संघटना

IN THE YEARS 1943-1948  
 THANKS TO THE HOSPITALITY  
 OF KOLHAPUR STATE  
 5000 POLISH REFUGEES  
 FOUND SHELTER IN  
 VALIVADE CAMP

DISPERSED  
 THROUGHOUT THE WORLD  
 WE REMEMBER INDIA  
 WITH HEARTFELT GRATITUDE

On the 50th anniversary  
 of our departure  
 Association of Poles in India

1998

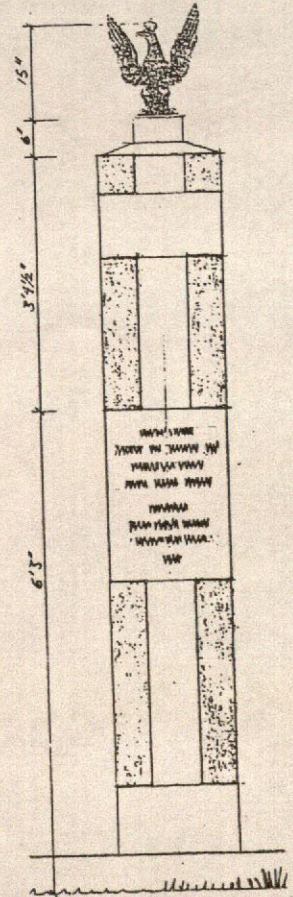


## THE MONUMENT

On a trip to India four years ago a group of us also visited Kolhapur where we lived in the years 1943-1948. It was at a reception in the Collector's residence that col. Vijay Gaikwad suggested a memorial commemorating our stay in India. The idea was eagerly endorsed by us and eventually a formal approach was made to the appropriate authorities. The first steps were taken by Mr. Vasant Kashikar, a member of the Indo-Polish Friendship Association, who married one of our girls, Wanda Nowicka.

The appeal for funds was made to our members living in many countries -England, USA, Canada, Australia and Poland of course.

Discussions were protracted until a new Polish Consul in Mumbai, Mr. Ireneusz Makles was appointed and col. Vijay Gaikwad became actively engaged in the project; also the 50th anniversary of our departure from India was fast approaching, so there was no time to loose. A place was found and the pillar, based on the early Indian column, but embodying also Christian and Polish elements, with inscriptions in three languages, became a reality.



## ARRIVAL OF POLISH REFUGEES IN INDIA

When, during the World War II, a Polish Army was formed in the Soviet Union out of the war prisoners and detainees to help the Allies fight Nazi Germany a great number of civilian families of the soldiers were also allowed to enter Russia. During the search for accommodation, India was the first country to accept Polish Refugees. (Other countries were Middle East, Africa, Mexico and New Zealand).

A start was made in Jamnagar where a camp was built in Balachadi for Polish orphaned children. Then transit camps near Karachi. Eventually, VALIVADE - a small Polish village was built near Kolhapur to house 5000 people, many women and children, but it was the Polish Government in London, which assumed the financial responsibility for its refugees, thought it was executed by the Government of India.

For five years, Valivade was our "home from Home", a sunny, peaceful place after the harrowing deprivations of years spent in forced exile in Russia.

After 50 years, some of us decided to come back and build a monument to commemorate those happy years and to express our thanks to the people who welcomed us and helped us to recover.

## RECEPTION IN BOMBAY

In the evening of the last day of January 1998, we landed at Mumbai Airport and were met by the Polish Consul bearing roses. Our first question was: "Is the monument completed?"

The next day there was a reception at the consulate, where we met the members of the Indo-Polish Friendship Association. In the friendly, relaxed atmosphere, there were speeches, drinks, gifts and singing (Mr. Sebastian Fernandes is not the only one who likes singing!) A commemorative book entitled "Exiled children" was presented to the consul, Mr. Ireneusz Makles, as a memento of our co-operation on the monument. Our vice-chairman, Jan Siedlecki, reminded those present, of the telegram sent on 17th Jan. 1944 by Mr. Stańczyk, Minister of Social Welfare in the Polish Government in London, to Mr. G.S. Bosman, Secretary of Gov. of India in New Delhi:

"On the occasion of the opening ceremony of the Polish Refugees Settlement in Kolhapur, may I convey on behalf of the Polish Government our warmest gratitude to the Delhi Government who were the first to take the initiative in receiving Polish evacuees from Russia and especially for giving asylum to many of our children. Special thanks are due to the organizers of the Kolhapur settlement where the Polish refugees have been enabled to enjoy conditions similar to their normal family life. Not only those Poles benefiting by such hospitality but the whole Polish nation now enduring such terrible ordeals, will always remember with gratitude the generosity of India. I am sure that the friendship engendered between our two people during the hardships of war corresponds to the friendship uniting our two countries."

\* \* \*

Reception in the Polish Consulate in Bombay - From left: Vice-konsul K. Zaremba and wife, I. Wolff, A. Ball, A. Lotyczewska, S. Fernandez, T. Stanisławska, Mr. V.J. Naik, Konsul I. Makles, K. Czajka, E. Stechley, K. Koziell, D. Pniwska, T. Makles, Durant, J. Siedlecki.



From left: E. Stechley, col. V. Gaikwad, W. Kashikar, J. Siedlecki, I. Makles.

## UNVEILING CEREMONY

The day before, when our architekt Jan Siedlecki went to view the monument, it stood without "the eagle". By lunchtime, it came, but was still on the ground... In the afternoon we received a message that "the eagle has landed".

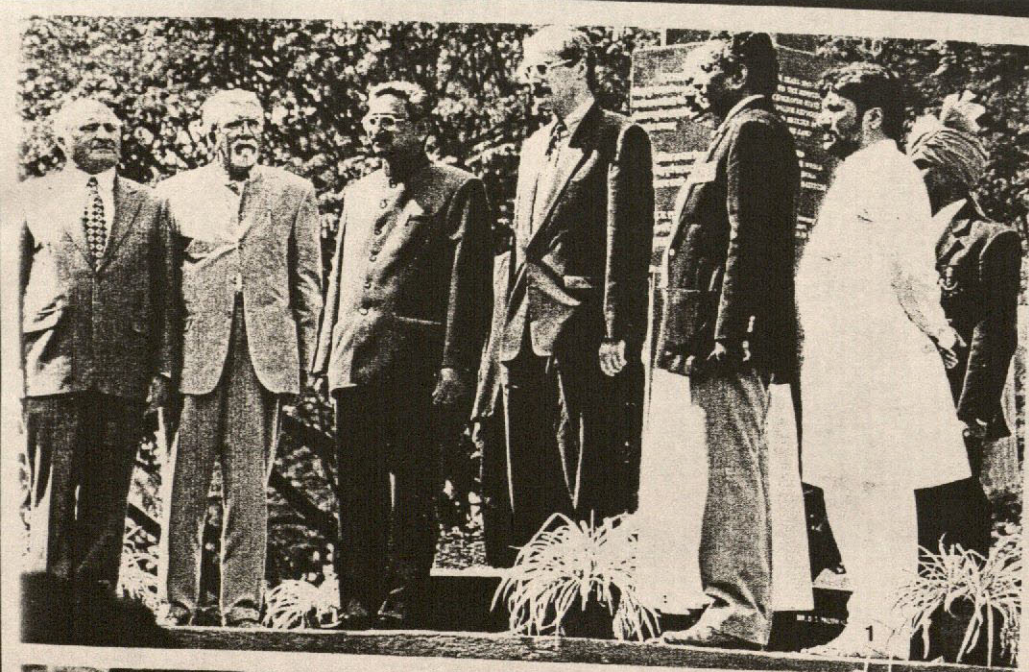
The next day, Tuesday 3rd of Feb. 1998, arriving at Mahavir Gardens in Kolhapur we saw a gathering crowd, rows of chairs under an awning and a red carpet leading up the slope, but above all, we saw our Polish Eagle spreading its wings on top of the monument.

The presiding officer, Mr. Sebastian Fernandes (from the Polish Consulate) called the names of the chief guests and speakers: His Highness Chhatrapati Shahu Maharajah of Kolhapur; Dr. Krzysztof Dębnicki, chargé d'affaires of the Polish Embassy in Delhi; Mr. Shivajirao Kadem, Mayor of Kolhapur; Mr. Shailesh Kumar Sharma, Municipal Commissioner; Mr. D.P. Metke, Deputy Commissioner; col. Vijay Gaikwad, Chairman of the Ex-servicemen Welfare Assoc.; Mr. Ireneusz Makles, consul of the Republic of Poland in Mumbai; Mr. J.K. Siedlecki, vice-chairman of the Association of Poles in India 1942-48.

After the inaugural speeches the emotionally charged moments arrived. The Maharajah together with the Polish Chargé de affaires, The Consul and the Vice-chairman, assisted by the colonel and Mr. Paras Oswal, performed the unveiling ceremony, whilst the Police Band faultlessly rendered the Polish National Anthem, followed by the Maharashtra State Anthem played by the Military Band. The consul then read a telegram from our members in Canada.

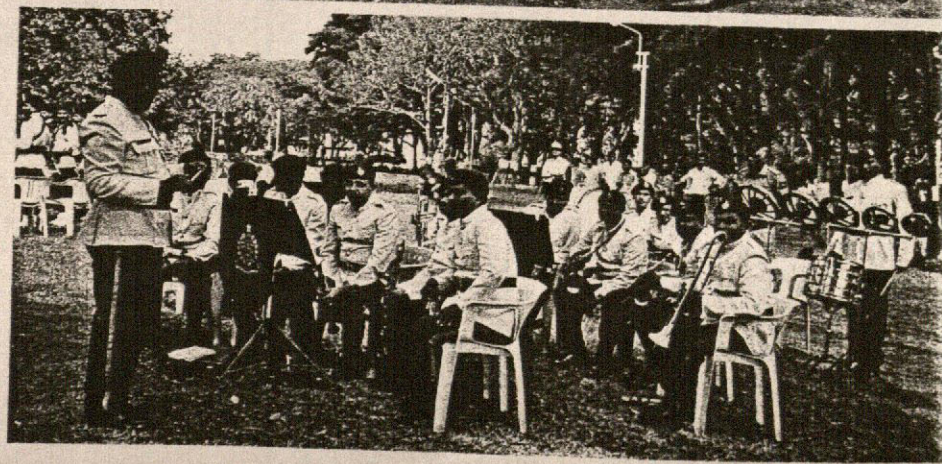
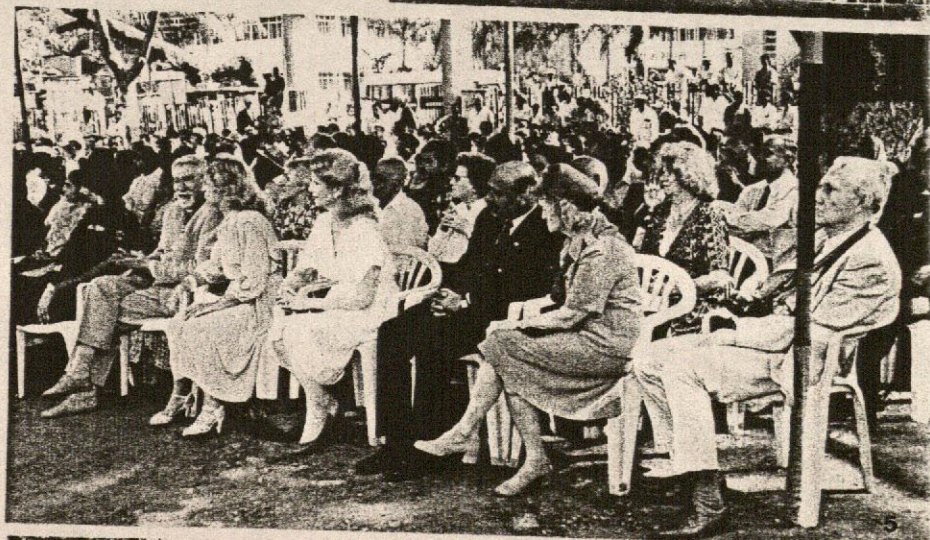
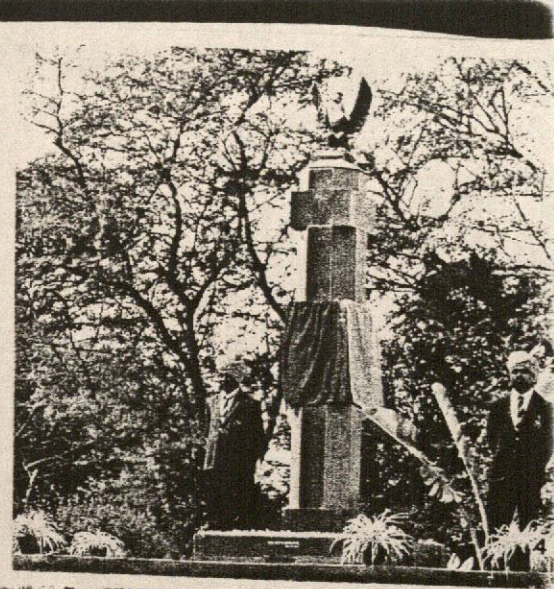
The Jesuit Fathers from St. Xavier's High School, together with the nuns, led hymn singing and prayers, after which Fr. Mario Fernandes SJ consecrated the Monument. In the closing speech Mrs. Krystyna Koziell reminisced about life in the Valivade Camp, 50 years ago, and unexpectedly Mr. Shumrao Tuksam Gaikwad (who worked in the Camp) addressed the gathering with a few words in Polish. But the warmest appreciation was reserved for our guest Dr. Helena Pyz, who runs the Social and Leprosy Rehabilitation Centre in Raipur, when she spoke in Hindi.





## UNVEILING CEREMONY

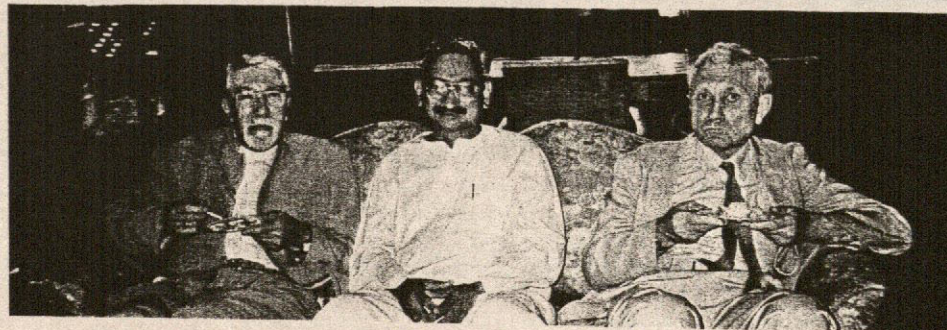
- 1) From left: Consul I.Makles; J.K.Siedlecki; H.H. Chhatrapati Shahu, Maharaja of Kolhapur; dr. K.Debnicki, chargé d'affaires of Polish Embassy in Delhi; col.Vijay Gaikwad; P.Oswal.  
 2) Rev.Fr. Mario Fernandez leads the prayers 3) Regimental band  
 4) The Monument 5) Audience at the ceremony 6) Police Band



.We than met and entertained a multitude of guests and friends (amongst them Wanda Kashikar, the sons of B.B.Bage - still in the fotographic buisnes of their father, the son of the Scoutmaster Valivadekar and many others) in the park at the garden tea party, endeavouring to answer numerous questions from the local and national newspapers and TV reporters.



Later we retired to a reception given by Messrs DS Pandwal and Paraswani, in a restaurant, where we relaxed and enjoyed a traditional Indian meal.



Afterwards we were invited to the Maharaja's Palace, the ground floor of which is now a museum, part of which contains hunting trophies of his ancestors. A film crew occupied another part, preparing a documentary on one of the Maharaja's forefathers. Upstairs, in the private apartments we were entertained by His Highness to tea and met the widowed Maharanee of the late Maharaja whose coronation we witnessed in 1947.



The grand finale of the day was the evening party given by col. Vijay Gaikewad and his charming wife Priya, for us and their family and friends, in the grounds of their home. A very enjoyable evening with excellent food prepared by Priya, whilst the Colonel officiated at the bar. We sang in Polish, Marathi and English and did not want to go home....

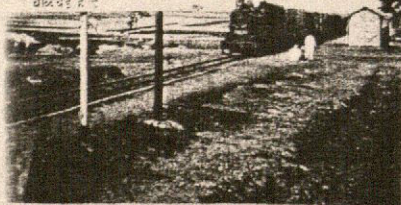


### VALIVADE - GANDINAGHAR

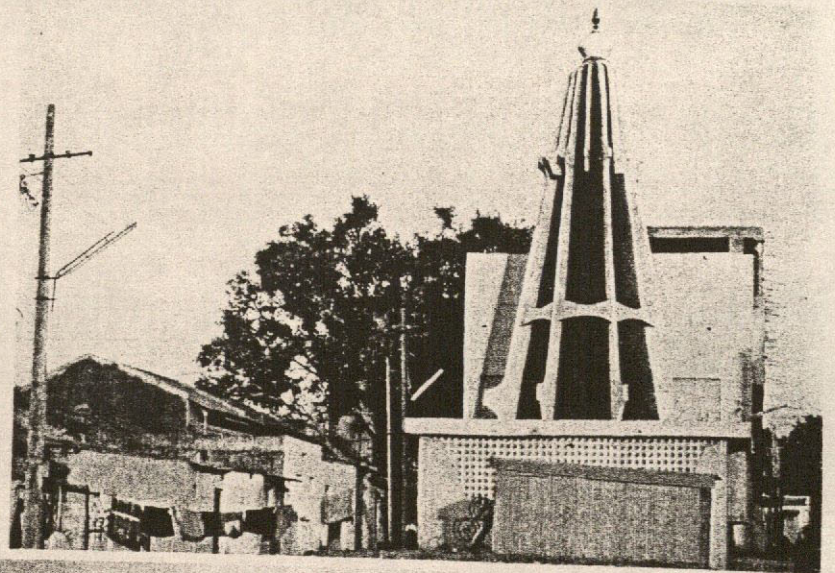
The building of The Polish Refugee Camp VALIVADE was completed by the end of 1943. Due to war shortages, only cheap materials were used in constructing the long barracks, each divided into 10 "apartments" consisting of 2 rooms and a tiny kitchennette. There was no cement, so the floors were compacted earth and needed smearing with liquid manure to stop cracking. Of course there was no running water or electricity, no glass windows or solid doors, and only a charcoal stove for cooking. But the mat doors could be closed and even locked with a padlock, giving us the longed for privacy and resemblance of normal life. What joy it was to tend the narrow slips of gardens along the cool verandas, to grow one's own banana or papaya tree!

We had our own administration with the Polish commandant, later an English one, and finally an Indian, Polish church, schools and Hospital, in which doctors, sent by the Polish army, tended not only the inhabitants but quite a few of our Indian neighbours. The Indian Syndicate ran most of the shops. There was a thriving market where people from surrounding villages sold their wares. Quite a lot of Indian people worked in the Camp in various capacities and most of them became friendly with the people of Valivade. Especially warmly we remember our teachers of English who helped us to learn the language, the only means of communication between our people and the locals.

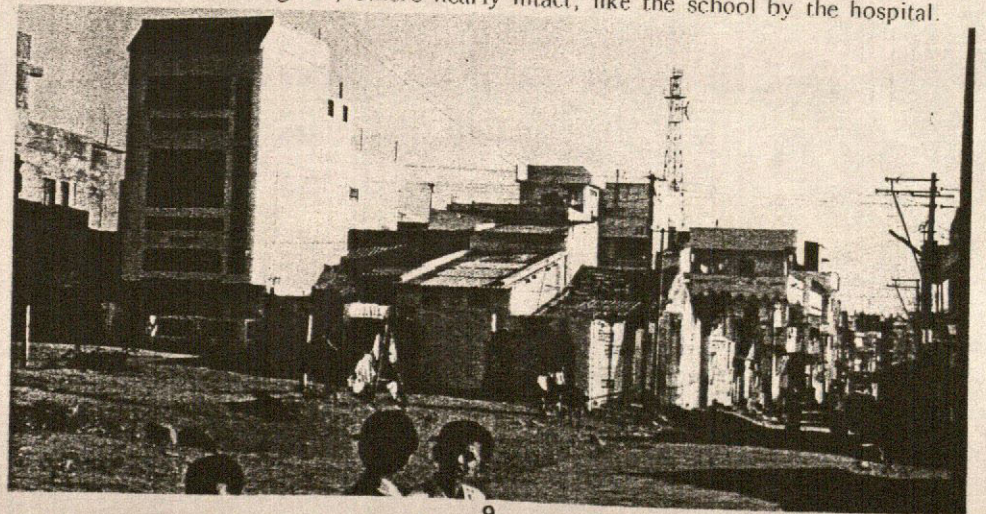
VALIVADE HALT



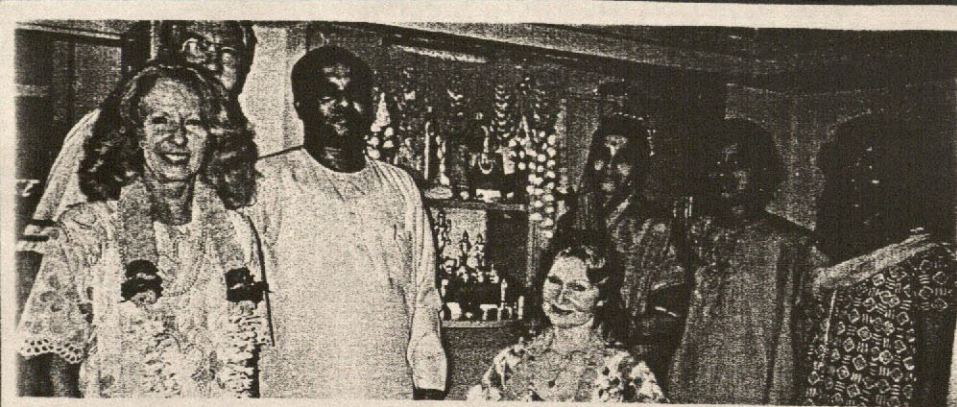
8



The Camp, destined to last 3-5 years, survived for much, much longer. We were amazed to find out, that for nearly 50 years it housed refugees from Pakistan. Even now, hidden among the new buildings, there are a few old barracks, some difficult to recognise, others nearly intact, like the school by the hospital.



9



### RECEPTION IN VALIVADE

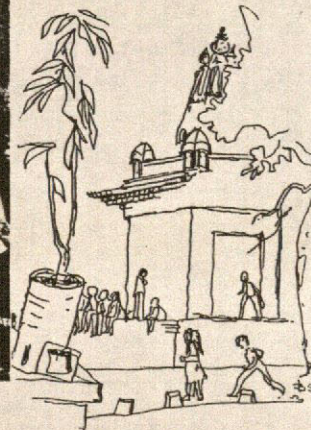
On arrival in Kolhapur 2.Feb.1998 we were invited to a reception at Valivade. We arrived early, eager to see our former abode. Some of us visited here our years ago, but for those who came for the first time, it was a shock. Gone were not only our old barracks, but also the green gardens and wide, alleys. The variety of houses in different sizes, shapes and styles was disorientating. Slowly, assisted by a crowd of cheerful children, eager to help, we found our bearings. Some of us located the hospital in which we or our mothers worked - it is newly built and looks different though on the same site. Kind nurses showed us around. We were invited for tea in a lovely, small, sparkling clean house. Part of the old hospital building seems to be a school now, children were going for lessons but such as we would like to join them, we had to leave for the reception.

On a platform outside, were rows of chairs. Mr. Aunasaheb S. Kusale, Sarpanch of the Grampanchayat, Valivade (head of village committee) greeted us; with garlands of flowers. One of these flowery tributes our leader, Jan Siedlecki placed on the statue of Shivaji. We well remember the turbulent years just before India gained Independence and the role Mahatma Gandhi played and are happy to know that the village standing on the grounds of our Camp bears his name. Speeches were made, including the daughter of a local politician Digvijay B. Hanwilkar MLA and various people connected with the Polish Camp introduced themselves. Our senior Girl Guide, Danuta Pniewska talked to a group of children explaining that although speaking English we originally came from Poland.

After the reception, Mr. Kusale took us to the molasses workshop where we watched the exciting process of changing sugar cane into jaggery. We then had the honour of receiving tea with his family in their home.



PANHALA was and still is very popular with the scouting movement.

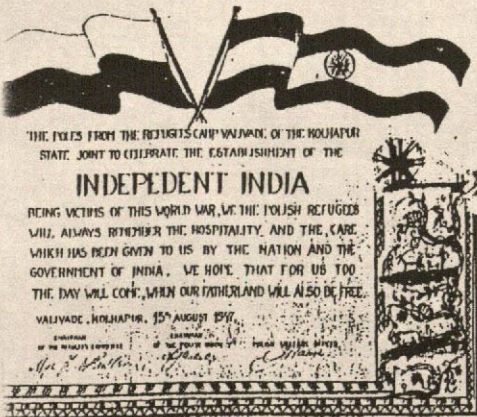


PANHALA revisited after 50 years.



INDEPENDENCE DAY - 15.08.1947

12th Feb.1998



Polish Refugees in the Valivade Camp not only witnessed The Day of India's Independence on 15th August 1947, but actively participated in the ceremony lead by the Commandant Lt.Col. Diwan Singh Bhalla I.M.S., I.A.M.C. It started by raising the national Indian flag alongside the Polish flag and that of Kolhapur State. Our community was represented by all the schools, Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, and delegations of all Polish organizations in the camp.

Col. Vijay Gaiwad to Mr. Jan Siedlecki.

Dear Jan, as one amongst the many citizens of Kolhapur, I express my deep sense of appreciation and gratitude for the initiative that members of the Association of Poles in India 1942-48 took at my suggestion: to have a permanent and lasting landmark to commemorate the stay of the Polish refugees of World War II. This has not only revived the bonds of affection of the people of Polish origin spread all over the world, and Kolhapur, but will go a long way to further foster and strengthen our ties through cultural, trade and commerce interaction in the years to come.

The younger generation of Kolhapur were either ignorant or indifferent to part of its own history; which has now been rekindled through the noble and kind gesture of the surviving members of the Valivade camp.

\* \* \*



Warm welcome awaited us at the Hotel SHALINI PALACE ...

... and fond farewells from old and new friends.



The procession that followed was swelled by the remaining inhabitants and wishers. Their attitude was tempered by the knowledge that Poland, at the end of its war, was not free.

Prominent members of the Polish community and their quests were then led to lunch - Indian style.

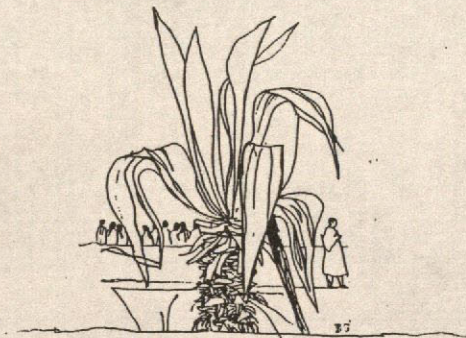
The celebrations continued with the commemorative meeting in the local hall. In his speech, Col. Bhalla thanked the Poles for attending this joyfull and expressed the hope that Poland will also soon be free which could enable Polish Refugees to return to their homes. While the Polish Deputy, Golawski was responding, one of the Indians present shouted:- "Poland must free" which met with applause. There followed speeches and songs both in English and Marathi... A Polish boy, dressed in the Polish national costume, sung in the local dialect, which was warmly received.

In the evening the colourful rockets painted happy-signs on the skies above the camp.

Adapted from an article by A.Kisielnicka in the Polish paper "Polak w Indiach" (A Pole in India) published in Bombay on 23 Aug. 1947



Good wishes from  
The free India. Wish  
the Polish nation  
an early freedom.  
K. Govind  
Kulkarni  
India



## OUR VOTE OF THANKS

To THE KOLHAPUR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION for allocating us such a splendid location for the monument.

To col. VIJAYSINGH K. GAIKWAD (ret.) for undertaking to execute the monument and organize the ceremony on our behalf.

To the Polish Consul in Mumbai, Mr. IRENEUSZ MAKLES for his support and coordinating the events.

To JAN K. SIEDLECKI Dip. Arch. (Leic.) for designing the commemorative pillar and ensuring its implementation.

To Messrs. D.S. PADVAL and PARAS B. OSWAL of Pooja Builders and the architect G. MALI Dip. Arch. (Bom) AIIA, MCA, for the foundation and whose combined efforts completed the monument in such a short time.

To the silversmith family of late Mr. A.R. Chavan - his sons Shri Chandra Shekar, Arun and Purushattam - for the excellent "eagle" which surpassed our expectations.

To Mr. M. SANAP, Superintendent of Police and col. O.P. SINGH, Station Commander, for making available the POLICE BAND and SHAMINA MILITARY BAND and for other administrative arrangements.

To His Highness CHHATRAPATI SHRIMAN SHAHU, Maharaj of Kolhapur and Dr. KRZYSZTOF DEBNICKI, chargé d'affaires of the Polish Embassy in Delhi for performing the unveiling ceremony and adding splendour to the event.

To the REV. FATHER MARIO FERNANDES S.J. for the act of consecration.

To all our donors, whose contributions made this possible and to the guests and friends who attended the ceremony.

Association of Poles in India 1942-48

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Supplement prepared by B. & J. Siedlecki, J. Chmielowska, D. Pniewska. Published by ASSOCIATION OF POLES IN INDIA 1942 - 48. Secretary Mrs. W. Kleszko, Flat 18, Cleverly Estate, Wormholt Rd. London W12 OLX. Tel: 0181 749 6190.

From :

K N Sanadhya  
Sainik School,  
Balachadi,  
Jamnagar - 361230

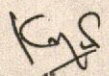
**Dear Mr. Kenneth**

1. We are in receipt of your letter addressed to the Principal, Sainik School, Balachadi, as well as to us (Mr. and Mrs. Sanadhya).
2. Please find enclosed a list of names of Polish people who visited the school on Feb.28,1985 to present the memorial Plaque to the school. This is an extract from the visitors' book from the school. As you would notice most of the names and addresses are in Polish. You may decode them and use some of these for your work. We don't have any other record regarding this subject with us.
3. Our principal has also informed me that there is another lady in London working on a book and dedicating a Chapter about the Stay of the Polish Children here from 1942 - 46 ( II World War ). Her address is as follows:  

Mrs. Mary Allen,  
47, Forest Road,  
Tunbridge Wells,  
Kent TN2 5AL .
4. She may also be of some help to you. Do make it a point to visit us in January. We can show you an album left behind by the Polish gentlemen.
5. You may also write for a detailed information about th same to Maharaja of Nawanager, Shri Shatru Shalyaji, City Palace, Jamnagar.
6. Do hope it suffices your research.

Thanking You.

Yours Sincerely

  
Sanadhyas

DATE	NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
	W imieniu nauczycieli, strażników i rodziców pracowników Szkoły Podstawowej im. Javaharlal Nehru braterskie pozdrowienia	przeżyłom miłościję hinduskiej najsevdanowej Dziśi Suomaa - mawijiel luvton vaa djetta.	
<del>10 MAR 85</del>	<del>V. Jeyendra Challa</del>	<del>Vice Admiral I.N. COM INA</del>	
<del>10 Mar 85</del>	<del>Navin Chandra</del>	<del>Commander IN. C.O. VARSORA</del>	
<del>14-4-85</del>	<del>A. A. Querk. wtm June 14</del>	<del>Indonstan Ind. Indonstan Querk 2/12 Jan 1985</del>	<del>A. A. Querk</del>
<del>16 Apr 85</del>	<del>Brig. N N Khanbande</del>	<del>HQ II Arty Bde</del>	
<del>26 Apr 85</del>	<del>Col. S GANGULY</del>	<del>HQ DUME Rajasthan</del>	<del>C. S. Ganguly</del>
<del>05 May 85</del>	<del>Cdr. I P Sud</del>	<del>NOIC BOMBAY</del>	
<del>05 May 85</del>	<del>Cdr. AJAY SOOD</del>	<del>CTS TIR</del>	<del>Sood</del>
<del>05 May 85</del>	<del>Cdr. S C Sandhir</del>	<del>XO INS TRISHUL</del>	<del>S. C. Sandhir</del>
<del>10 May 85</del>	<del>Colonel Jitendra Singh</del>	<del>Dy Ch, HQ 85 Inf Bde % 56 APO</del>	<del>It delightful and most enjoyable stay with kind courtesy of Commander PC Sockey, Principal of Central School</del>

DATE	NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
	<p>Dawni uczniowie szkoły polskiej w osiedlu dieki polskich          którzy uczyli się tutaj w latach 1942-1946 głęboko          wzruszeni wpisują się tutaj po upływie 40 lat.          Former student of Polish school living and studying          here in 1942-1946 put his names here after forty year</p>		
8.2.1985	Jerzy Tomaszek	Poland Bytom pl. Dzierżyńskiego 12	[Signature]
	Wiesław Stypuła	Poland - Warszawa	[Signature]
	Stefan Sulowski (56)	— " —	[Signature]
	Hojzy Tomkowiak	Poland - Białystok	[Signature]
	Jerzy Wesołyński	Poland Gdynia	[Signature]
	Jan Bielecki	Poland Warszawa	[Signature]
	Jasień Stanisław	POLAND Legnica	[Signature]
	Jedynka Piotrowska - Im. Dłuskiego	WARSZAWA	[Signature]
	Andrzej Stypuła (61)	POLAND WARSZAWA	[Signature]

1999.A.0265

Kenneth X. Robbins collection, 1942-1998,  
1 folder,

1991