8215

003 Nazwisko LIS Imiona Michael lat życia 86

004 Pseudonim

006 z domu Rodzice

008 Data urodzenia 20.7.1908 Miejscowość

010 Data śmierci 8.8.1986 Miejscowość Francja

012 Pogrzeb/Spopielenie Adres Cmentarza

Nr. grobu

026 Źródła: Nekrolog

Ankieta

Lista Stowarzyszenia

Grodziska

Suchecitz

Inne The Times 16.8.1994 - wspomnienie

029 **Wyznanie** .....

030 **Jednostka wojskowa** ..... SOE /Brit./.....

032 **Rodzaj wojska** .....

033 **Stopień wojskowy** .....

034 **Odznaczenie** ..... Military Cross .....

036 **Zawód** .....

038 **Tytuły naukowe** .....

042 **Instytucje** .....

044 **Obozy** .....

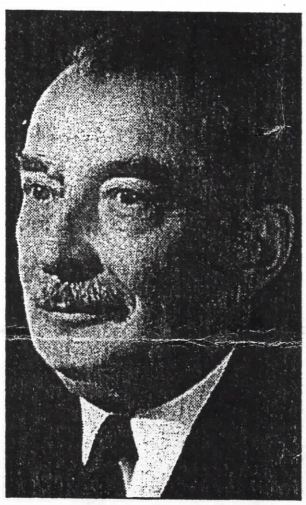
046 **Słowo kluczowe** .....

Karta Rejestracyjna Archiwum Osobowe Emigracji. Biblioteka Polska w Londynie.

The Times 16. August 1994

MICHAEL LIS

Michael Lis, MC, former SOE officer, died in France on August 8 aged 86. He was born on July 20, 1908.



MICHAEL LIS was one of a small group of Poles who served with outstanding distinction in the British Special Operations Executive in the Second World War. Others were Christine Granville and Andrew Kennedy, with both of whom he was linked by close ties of friendship.

Michal Gradowski, as he was known before he changed his name during the war, came from what was then called the Polish Ukraine. He was educated largely outside Poland and graduated in agricultural science at Louvain University. He returned to Poland in 1939, intending to fight against the Germans. In fact, he was soon captured by Soviet forces but, as he put it, not having the soul of a prisoner, he escaped by jumping from a train in the middle of the night. He made his way to German-occupied Warsaw where he was put in touch with Stanislaw Witkowski, the head of a secret group known as the Musketeers which was in close contact with British Intelligence.

Gradowski agreed to take he communicated in Latin. He then made his way to Budapest.

For his onward journey to Istanbul he adopted the guise of a Baltic German of Estonian nationality named Baron Ostrog and had a forged document supposedly signed by Dr Goebbels commending his mission. He continued his journey by German aircraft and was entertained in a German mess at Belgrade airport where he was able to observe all the aircraft on the airfield.

His final journey to Istanbul was in a taxi which he shared with the Gr

benefit of the site operators it should be a short one, he chose Lis, the Polish word for fox.

He was duly parachuted into Albania and, although he was unable to contact the Polish workers, he served with distinction as a liaison officer with the Albanian partisans. For his gallantry he was awarded the Military Cross, the citation calling attention not only to his endurance and bravery but to his "unfailing cheerfulness".

After the war he formed a small plastics company and was later appointed as the Paris representative of Cooper McDougall & Robertson, which was later taken over by the Wellcome Foundation. He became president of two of its European subsidiary companies.

In Paris he was a familiar figure at the Travellers Club where he had a reputation as a raconteur in a variety of languages. At the Compiègne golf club he was also known for his enthusiasm which greatly outmatched his achievement.

Michael Lis was married three times. By his first wife, who was Polish, he had one son. He met his second wife, Sheila Lyons, when she was working in the SOE office in

036 Zawód .....

038 Tytuły naukowe .....

042 Instytucje .....

044 Obozy .....

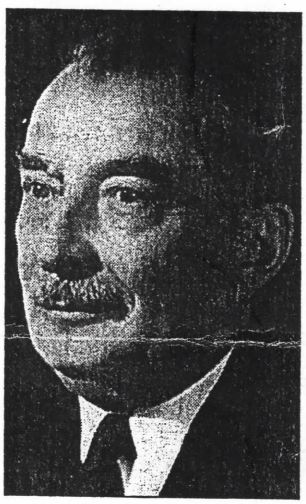
046 Słowo kluczowe .....

Karta Rejestracyjna Archiwum Osobowe Emigracji. Biblioteka Polska w Londynie.

The Times 16. August 1994

MICHAEL LIS

Michael Lis, MC, former SOE officer, died in France on August 8 aged 86. He was born on July 20, 1908.



MICHAEL LIS was one of a small group of Poles who served with outstanding distinction in the British Special Operations Executive in the Second World War. Others were Christine Granville and Andrew Kennedy, with both of whom he was linked by close ties of friendship.

Michal Gradowski, as he was known before he changed his name during the war, came from what was then called the Polish Ukraine. He was educated largely outside Poland and graduated in agricultural science at Louvain University. He returned to Poland in 1939, intending to fight against the Germans. In fact, he was soon captured by Soviet forces but, as he put it, not having the soul of a prisoner, he escaped by jumping from a train in the middle of the night. He made his way to German-occupied Warsaw where he was put in touch with Stanislaw Witkowski, the head of a secret group known as the Musketeers which was in close contact with British Intelligence.

Gradowski agreed to take microfilms and other information to Budapest which he duly handed over to a Polish priest named Father Laski. He then agreed to make his way to Istanbul but in crossing the Hungarian-Yugoslav border he was arrested. Once more he jumped from a train, this time breaking his knee-cap on landing. He had one bread roll with him which he divided into four parts, one part to be eaten each day. After prolonged wandering he met a Hungarian priest with whom he communicated in Latin. He then made his way to Budapest.

For his onward journey to Istanbul he adopted the guise of a Baltic German of Estonian nationality named Baron Ostrog and had a forged document supposedly signed by Dr Goebbels commending his mission. He continued his journey by German aircraft and was entertained in a German mess at Belgrade airport where he was able to observe all the aircraft on the airfield.

His final journey to Istanbul was in a taxi which he shared with the German consul. He later had a personal interview with General Sikorski, the Polish Prime Minister and commander-in-chief, although he himself was only a second lieutenant.

Through Christine Granville he was put in touch with SOE, which was looking for a Polish officer to be parachuted into Albania to contact a number of Polish workers who had been sent there by the Germans to do forced labour. He agreed to change his name and, on being told that for the benefit of the site operators it should be a short one, he chose Lis, the Polish word for fox.

He was duly parachuted into Albania and, although he was unable to contact the Polish workers, he served with distinction as a liaison officer with the Albanian partisans. For his gallantry he was awarded the Military Cross, the citation calling attention not only to his endurance and bravery but to his "unfailing cheerfulness".

After the war he formed a small plastics company and was later appointed as the Paris representative of Cooper McDougall & Robertson, which was later taken over by the Wellcome Foundation. He became president of two of its European subsidiary companies.

In Paris he was a familiar figure at the Travellers Club where he had a reputation as a raconteur in a variety of languages. At the Compiègne golf club he was also known for his enthusiasm which greatly outmatched his achievement.

Michael Lis was married three times. By his first wife, who was Polish, he had one son. He met his second wife, Sheila Lyons, when she was working in the SOE office in Bari. The marriage was dissolved. In his third marriage he enjoyed the greatest contentment and delight. His wife Pamela Truelove had worked in the deciphering unit in Bletchley and later for many years in the British Embassy in Paris. They were a deeply devoted couple. After their retirement they lived in a converted farmhouse not far from Angers. He was largely bedridden for a number of years during which she nursed him with the greatest devotion.