POLAM's debit and credit cards are part of the National Polish Center…

Newspaper article:

In 1969, the Vietnam War was in full swing. President Nixon was in office and California was the epicenter of a social phenomenon known as the hippie movement. Poles were immigrating to Southern California in large numbers from Europe, Poland, and even South America. The 60s gave rise to numerous cultural, self-help and veterans organizations. The feeling of solidarity was at an all-time high in the Polish Community. It was in this setting that 10 forward-thinking individuals pulled together a small amount of money and signed their names to an application for a credit union charter. In Oct of 1969 a Charter was issued to the Polish American Congress Federal Credit Union, later shortened to simply POLAM Credit Union.

In the early years the credit union was operated entirely by volunteers but as the movement grew so did the need for specialists. In 1977, Mr. Storożyński said, "By joining forces with our organization, NPC members become part of a rich heritage that dates back to 1925. The Kościuszko Foundation has promoted Polish culture in America for 85 years, and given fellowships to numerous doctors, attorneys, artists, professors, and people such as the economist Leszek Balcerek whose 'shock therapy policies' helped turn Poland into the fastest growing economy in Europe."

Newspaper article:

POLAM Celebrates its 40th Anniversary

Kościuszko Foundation acquires National Polish Center…

Open Washington D.C. office at 2025 "O" Street

Polish-American community expands presence in nation's capital.

NEW YORK & WASHINGTON, D.C. — Kościuszko Foundation President and Executive Director Alex Storożyński, today announced that the foundation has acquired the National Polish Center (NPC) and has added Al Koprowski and Julian Kulski to its board of trustees. Mr. Storożyński said, “This is an exciting alliance that expands the Polish community’s presence in Washington capital. We want all Polish-Americans to think of this as their headquarters in Washington, D.C. And we invite members of the U.S. Congress and all branches of government to visit our office at 2025 O Street in Washington D.C. to learn about Polish contributions to life, liberty and culture in America.”

NPC Chair Patricia Koprowski said, “For years, the National Polish Center and the Kościuszko Foundation have had the same goal, to promote Polish culture, science, and scholarship. In America, with the economies of today, this marriage makes perfect sense, and together, we can become stronger and do even more to educate future generations of Polish scholars and leaders.”

The Kościuszko Foundation’s Board of Trustees Chairmen, Stephen F. Ries, said, “By joining forces with our organization, NPC members become part of a rich heritage that dates back to 1925. The Kościuszko Foundation has promoted Polish culture in America for 85 years, and given fellowships to numerous doctors, attorneys, artists, professors, and people such as the economist Leszek Balcerek whose ‘shock therapy policies’ helped turn Poland into the fastest growing economy in Europe.”

Newspaper article:

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Uncovered documents reveal spy who fed information on Hitler’s secrets

A TIMESONLINE article by Ben McInyre reports, MI6 obtained vital secrets from a spy operating at the very heart of Hitler’s high command during the most crucial years of the war, newly discovered intelligence documents have revealed.

The secret agent, code-named “Knopf”, furnished the intelligence service with information on Hitler’s plans in the Mediterranean and on the Eastern Front, the health of Field Marshal Erwin Rommel and even the location of the “Wolf’s Lair” — the Führer’s headquarters in Eastern Prussia.

Historians have tended to play down the wartime role of MI6 — in comparison with the crucial importance of the messages decoded at Bletchley Park, but the discovery of Agent Knopf by the Cambridge historian Paul Winter shows that Britain obtained a highly valuable intelligence from a network of agents in the upper ranks of the Third Reich.

The documents, uncovered in the Churchill Archives in Cambridge and the National Archives, show that Knopf and his agents provided Britain with a steady stream of high value information to German plans for an invasion of Malta in 1942, relayed Rommel’s intentions in North Africa and revealed Hitler’s fatal obsession with capturing Stalingrad on the Eastern Front.

The Führer was “determined to capture Stalingrad at all costs”, Knopf reported. Hitler’s disastrous assault on the Russian city, which led to the destruction of the German 6th Army, is seen as a turning point in the war.

Agent Knopf was initially recruited and run by Polish Intelligence in the early years of the war. In 1941, the Polish Government in exile in London agreed to hand over all its intelligence material to the Secret Intelligence Service ([SIS], better known as MI6, providing Britain with a steady stream of top-grade working for the rest of the war. The archives of MI6 remain closed, and the real identity of Agent Knopf may never be known but the newly uncovered documents indicate that the star spy was a German with access to high-grade military information.

One British intelligence report noted: “The source, of whom the Poles think very highly, is not himself a Pole. He has not specified his informants, but states that they are highly placed and in touch with the German High Command.”

Mr. Winter said: “The discovery of Agent Knopf and his fellow spies, shows for the first time that Britain’s SIS gained a unique entree into German operational and military thinking during the most critical phases of the war. We may never know their true identities or respective roles, but their acumen and courage are beyond doubt.”

The officer in charge of liaising between Polish and British Intelligence was Commander Wilfred “Biffy” Dundarelle, the former MI6 station chief in Paris. A friend of Ian Fleming, who created James Bond, Biffy Dundarelle was one of the models for the character of James Bond.

The Metropolitan Archbishop of Warsaw, Kazimierz Nycz announced that Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko, God’s Venerable Servant, will be beatified or declared as Blessed on June 6, 2010 during a celebration of Thanksgiving Day in Warsaw, Poland.

The Beatification ceremony will start at Piłsudski Square and will be officiated by Archbishop Angelo Amato, Prefect of the Vatican Congregation for Beatifications and Canonizations.

Next, a procession will march with Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko’s relics via the Royal Tract to the Church of Divine Providence in Wilanów.

Benedict XVI signed on December 19, 2009 a decree about the martyrdom of Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko. Since then he can be called “Venerable God’s Servant.” The beatification process of martyr Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko lasted 12 years.

An estimated 1 million Poles participated in the Warsaw funeral of Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko, the “Solidarity Chaplain” who was murdered in 1984 by communist Poland’s Secret Police officers. Popiełuszko’s murderers were jailed but released later as part of an amnesty. Many of the facts regarding the murder remain unknown and are being investigated by the IPN (Institute of Nat’l Memory).