

IN MEMORIAM - VALE GEORGE BOREC –“ CHUMAK ”



“ЧУМАК” 1922-2006

On Tuesday morning 12.12.2006 George Borec (known as Yuri Borets – nom de guerre Chumak) succumbed, after his last battle with serious illness.

A well known Ukrainian – Australian, Yuri Borets lately of Hunters Hill but for many decades the well-known successful Penrith businessman George Borec, breathed his last, leaving behind wife and soul mate Tania, two daughters Orysia (Christina) and Oksana plus two grand-daughters Ksenia and Olenka.

Many people knew him as a guerrilla-soldier in the Ukrainian Insurgent Army – UPA and as a builder, writer and passionate gregarious patriot of the country Ukraine, where he was born 84 years ago.

Over the years his was a daunting but full life. As a young shopkeeper in west Ukraine in the 1940's, he joined the patriotic movement OUN (Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists). He moved on to its armed resistance movement known as UPA , the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, that fought first against German occupiers in west Ukraine and then against Stalin's Red Army in an attempt to establish independence for Ukraine against the odds.

In all of his books , like “In the whirlpool of combat” , or “A Raid without weapons”, Borets dealt with the 350 year struggle to shake off Moscow's Greater Russia ambitions, perpetuated by the Communist Soviet Union.

Chumack participated as a platoon commander in the “Raid to the West” in 1947 with a detachment of the UPA, which had received orders to make it to the American Zone of defeated Germany to tell the world of their existence and their story. Borets emigrated to Australia from Bavaria and



Surviving soldiers of 95 Company of the UPA, moments before turning over their weapons to US Forces in West Germany on 11 Sept 1947.

established first a timber yard, then built 100's of homes, a commercial building and numerous factory buildings in Penrith, before retiring in 2000.

Intensely anti-communist and a dedicated battler for Ukraine, George Borec was the builder and main monetary contributor towards the Ukrainian Youth Centre, a well known Lidcombe landmark, and an active supporter of the Captive Nations Council, the grouping of East and Central European advocates and fighters working against the Russian dominated USSR through the 1960's to 1990. As part of his work, Borec published a number of brochures at his own expense.

Through the 1970's he wrote a series of memoirs/autobiographical novels (in Ukrainian), that were widely disseminated (even in Soviet controlled Ukraine). These novels acted as a beacon of national pride for younger generations of Ukrainian youth.

Wary of the insidious effect of 70 years of Russification which had followed the equally brutal Czarist imperial court, Borec continued to support Ukrainian leader Yaroslav Stetsko (who had been the short-lived Premier of a Ukrainian government proclaimed in 1941 crushed by German occupiers) in Stetsko's policy of forming a coalition of democratically aligned political leaders of Central and Eastern European nations and Asian anti-communist movements in the World Anti-Communist League (WACL) and the Asian Peoples Anti-Communist League (APACL).

Stetsko and other nationalist leaders were clearly vindicated when the 1990's saw the collapse of the USSR and the emergence of new democracies in Europe, inclusive of Ukraine – even though years of endemic corruption throughout the Soviet years had left its mark. Yuri Borec then launched himself as a film producer, financing two Ukrainian language thematic films, that were exhibited throughout the Ukrainian diaspora in this country and also the United States, Canada and Europe as well as Ukraine. Collaborating with the renowned Ukrainian film director Oles Yanchuk, a somewhat biographical feature film *Zalizna Sotnia* (A Company of Heroes) has been running in Ukrainian movie theatres and elsewhere.

Of late, though weakened by a malaise, his most recent project was a film being shot in Lviv, Ukraine, having as its theme the rise of the pre-Kyivan dawn of Ukrainian civilisation and her people, that had been the core population and medieval state of Rus-Ukraine, that is that expanse north of the steppes above the Black Sea that flourished prior to the emergence of a north-eastern neighbour empire of Muscovy/Russia.

Even though he was short of stature, Yuri Borec - Chumak will be remembered here and in his beloved Ukraine as a giant. I am glad to have been his close friend.

*George (Yuri) Mencinsky,
Carlingford NSW*



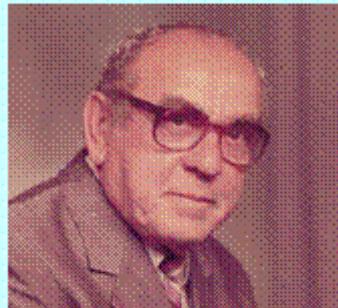
Woodcut by underground UPA artist,
Nil Khasevich



Ділимося сумною вісткою, що
12го грудня 2006 на 85-ому році життя
упокоївся в Бозі

ЮРІЙ БОРЕЦЬ

*22.03.1922 – †12.12.2006



Муж Тані, батько Орисі та Оксани,
залишаючи також у глибокому смутку зятів Любомира і Богдана,
та внучок Меланію†, Ксеню та Оленку

Покійний був активним діячем української громади в Австралії,
політичний діяч, та жертвенним працівником і фундатором багатьох цілей
на добро української справи – не лише в Австралії але і в Україні,
зокрема в рядах ОУН, і СУМ
будучи будівельником і головним фундатором Дому Української Молоді,
та останньо продюсерем фільму про події УПА – "Залізна Сотня".

Похорон, відбудеться в понеділок, 18го грудня 2006 р. поч. о год. 10.00 рано
з Української Католицької Парафії Св. Андрія в Лідкомбі

**В імені управи та членства ОУГ НПВ висловлюємо наші найглибші співчуття родині,
та українській громаді на терені НПВ з приводу відходу у вічність
стійкого та видатного члена нашої Громади і спільноти ...**

**Ярослав Дума ОАМ
Голова**