In 1947 the Polish Children’s Home was closed. The children were sent to various schools across Southern Africa to complete their education. It is estimated that half of the children remained to start a new life in South Africa. Many leaving to be reunited with family, and few returning to the legitimate and illegal Russian communist-enslaved Poles’ Republic of Poland.

**Poland has not yet perished**

The courageous and heroic pursuit for liberty by Poles led to the peaceful downfall of communism. The Third Polish Republic was established in 1989 as a democratic state ruled by law and implementing the principles of social justice. Poland’s on-going history, steeped with the evolution of enlightened supreme laws of the land, brought into effect the current Constitution on 17 October 2002. Two phrases in the preamble to the Constitution are of particular importance:

**Bound in community with our compatriots dispersed throughout the world…**

**Mindful of the bitter experiences of the times when fundamental freedoms and human rights were violated in our homeland…**

In deference to Our Lady of Częstochowa, Queen and Protector of Poland, the Polish Children of Oudshorn’s unwavering belief in Poland and its enlightened values has been passed on to subsequent generations.

**The 200th anniversary of the Napoleonic invasion of Russia**

The Polish nation was then subjected to a calculated Russian-German ethnic cleansing campaign that would later be defined as a new crime against humanity, categorised by the UN.

**The Epilogue**

All the camps and settlements established in Iran, Lebanon, Palestine, India, Africa, Mexico, and New Zealand were meant to be temporary quarters for the Polish refugees until the war. Many of the expected liberation of their homeland, however, after the Treaty of Yalta (when the Western Allies ungrudgingly ratified the right to enslave all of Eastern and half of Central Europe) and the end of the war, settlement of the Polish refugees overseas was an impossible dream for most, although a few did return to join their families in Poland.

**What became of the rest?**

Many of those Polish refugees brought to New Zealand and the Union of South Africa remained. The Polish refugees housed in the various camps in Iran, Lebanon, Palestine, India, and East Africa even made it to Great Britain and its dominions from where some later emigrated to the United States, Australia, Canada; some settling in Argentina. Thus ended the Polish Highlanders’ attempt to escape Siberia under the provisions of that tenuous amnesty of 1941.

Boiled down to the current time, the Polish Highlanders who did not leave! For tens of thousands, Siberia became their final resting place – thousands in unknown graves. Another quarter of a million were repatriated to the “liberated territories” of Western Poland during the massive population exchanges following World War II.

As for what happened to those whose whereabouts are unknown in Siberia, God only knows. Some, no doubt, are still there.