

# S U M M A R Y

## **CRACOW AND CRACOW REGION IN SEPTEMBER 1939 IN THE LIGHT OF HISTORIOGRAPHIC RESEARCH (ABSTRACT)**

ANDRZEJ LEON SOWA

### SUMMARY

The article characterizes the literature concerning the events which took place in Cracow in September 1939. Most of the works are dedicated to the Army „Cracow” which fought with the Germans on the foreground of the capital of the region of Little Poland. The most important of them is the monographic work “Army ‘Cracow’, 1939” by Władysław Steblik, published in Warsaw, 1975. Despite comparatively wide knowledge about the fightings of the Polish Army in the vicinity of Cracow, the historians still cannot agree undertaken by the Polish Army command whether the actions served its purpose. The article deals with some more important controversies.

However, the weakest point of the whole historiographic research is the lack of a monographic study which would characterize in a comprehensive way the events and peoples’ attitudes in Cracow in September 1939. Such questions as, for instance, the feelings among Cracow inhabitants in the months just before the outbreak of the war, preparation to minimize the effects of the war, the panic escape of the administration and thousands Cracow inhabitants overtaken by a rapid progress of the German army, the attempts to overcome the increasing chaos and disorganisation, and the wave of robbery which swept over the town, the shock at the sight of Germans marching in the town and their increasing ruthlessness including the murders committed in the first days of the occupation (especially on the Jewish population), call for a wider presentation. The author’s view is that despite a course of time, and the resulting from it loss of many source materials, such a comprehensive and professionally made monographic study of the life of Cracow inhabitants in September 1939 should be prepared.

## **INDEPENDENT CAVALRY OF THE ARMY “CRACOW” IN THE CAMPAIGN OF 1939 AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF ORGANIZATIONAL, OPERATIONAL AND TECHNICAL CHANGES IN POLISH CAVALRY IN THE PERIOD BETWEEN TWO WORLD WARS**

WIKTOR KUCHARSKI

### SUMMARY

Etymology of the term “cavalry” can be found in Italian language. It comes in a straight line from the word *caballo* (a horse), which, in turn, comes from the latin *caballus* meaning horse soldiers.

In the years 1920's and 1930's in some European countries the term *cavalry* included also rapid armoured and motorized military units. In Great Britain, for instance, there was a wide known armoured cavalry, while in France the tradition of heavy horse was continued, and the newly created formations were called "cuirassiers' divisions".

The term *independent cavalry* is of purely Polish origin, and refers to large military formations and operational groups of cavalry created in case of emergency.

Independent cavalry both mounted and motorized entered into the composition of the Army "Cracow" and consisted of two big military units: Cracow Brigade of Cavalry and motorized 10th Brigade of Cavalry. The first of them protected the northern wing of the army, the second stayed as a rearguard in the shelter of the Fortress Cracow.

In the morning of September 1, 1939, 15th Light Corps attacked the line of defence of Cracow Brigade of Cavalry near Woźniki and forced the brigade out to the line of the Warta river. For several next days, in fierce fightings the Brigade continued the retreat to the lines of the Nida and Dunajec rivers, which in operational plans of the Chief Command were the final defensive lines.

As early as the morning of September 1st, 10th Brigade of Cavalry (motorized) was directed towards Jordanów — Chabówka. Its central point of defence was on the Wysoka mountain, to protect the southern wing of the army against 15th Armoured Corps. Until September 6th, 10th Brigade of cavalry operated as covering party, and then concentrated on the foreground of Tarnów as a moving reserve.

## CRACOW 1939–1945 — EVERYDAY LIFE (ABSTRACT)

ANDRZEJ KULER

### SUMMARY

The article "Cracow 1939–1945 — Everyday Life" is an attempt to approach little known problems connected with Nazi occupation, so far treated in historiographic research only as a margin. So far, the historians focused in their research mainly on military activity and on selected issues of the propaganda struggle, and much less attention was paid to the economic situation in the occupied regions of Poland. The economy the occupant imposed on Cracow inhabitants can be found in literature inasmuch as it confirms a thesis of the terror spread with the aim of total extermination of the inhabitants.

Undoubtedly, the above mentioned thesis was true to a great extent and put into practice but the way of its realization earned little study. The article presents those processes only to a certain extent. However, it clearly shows three main periods of increased terror and characterizes internal and external conditions by which it was determined. The first period included establishment of the law for German-occupied Poland continued by mid-1940, the second of ruthless and direct terror (including "the solution of the Jewish question") continued by mid-1943, while the third one was a period of "courting" the Polish population alternately with an increasing terror and repression, according to the "stick and carrot" principle. The changes in the occupant's policy, presented chronologically and factually, show both the living conditions created for Cracow citizens and the resistance of the whole community to save their biological and national existence. The tables in the article show social and economic living conditions; the laws imposed on Cracow's inhabitants approach the knowledge about the legal limitations within which they were forced to live.

It is not possible, however, to give a whole picture of the living conditions of Cracow inhabitants in one article, both for the reason of its size and the present state of research. This article was meant only as an attempt to approach the problems connected with that issue and draw attention to the need of further indepth studies. The question whether a thesis of a purposeful biological extermination of the Polish nation will be confirmed when confronted with demographic statistics methods should be reconsidered. The answer to that question will allow to evaluate the behaviour of Polish citizens during the years of Nazi occupation and to present that time in a proper way in Polish historiographic works.

# **DISTRICT DELEGATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND IN CRACOW (CRYPTONYMS: „KOPIEC”, „SÓL”, „WISŁA”.)**

WALDEMAR GRABOWSKI

## **SUMMARY**

The article presents the process of formation of civil conspiracy in Cracow, and its cooperation with the military conspiracy. It was started in the end of September 1939, and continued until summer 1941. It was then that on August 27, 1941 the act of nomination of the District Delegate of the Polish Government was signed in London. After withdrawal of Professor Stanisław Pigoń, a before-war superintendent of the Poznań School District Jan Jakóbiec was appointed delegate.

Then the structure and competence of particular units of the District Delegation of the Government is discussed. Bureau of the Delegation consisted of 13 departments: administration, security, self-government, press and information, trade and industry, public works, agriculture, social welfare, public resistance. The organization of State Security Corps (secret police) is presented, together with additional bodies such as Self-government Guard and Citizens' Guard.

The District Delegation of the Government in Cracow was the second largest District Delegation in the Polish Underground State. It covered 31 smaller units (powiaty) of Cracow, Kielce and Lwów provinces. Enclosed to the article is an annex with a list of persons involved in Delegations on the local level.

# **THE STATE OF RESEARCH OF NOWY SĄCZ INSPECTORATE OF MILITARY FIGHTING UNION — HOME ARMY AND 1ST PODHALE RIFLE REGIMENT OF HOME ARMY (1939–1945)**

GRZEGORZ MAZUR, WOJCIECH ROJEK

## **SUMMARY**

The history of Nowy Sącz Military Fighting Union — Home Army and of 1st Podhale Rifle Regiment is rich in tragic events. It is enough to mention that as a result of the occupant's massive repression, the Inspectorate was forced to suspend its activity four times. The history of the regiment was no less dramatic. For years those tragic circumstances have been drawing the researchers' attention.

Presently, basic archive materials can be found in State Archives in Cracow. The documentation collected by the Chief Committee for Investigation of Nazi Crimes in Warsaw, and District Committee in Cracow, is also of a great importance. The materials supplied by the Institute of Underground Poland in London and the Military Historical Institute in Warsaw are also very useful. A separate group of source materials consists of the accounts by the participants of the events, which are available mainly in Historical Committees of the Association of Fighters for Liberty and Democracy and in private collections.

The most indepth study of the subject was made by Józef Bieniek, which was manifested by numerous articles, before all in Sącz Annuals. They contain abundant materials referring especially to the Circuits of Nowy Sącz and Limanowa and present also the formal structures of the Inspectorate. Aleksander Marczyński is the second most appreciated author in that matter. The subject of his study is the circuit of Nowy Targ. The majority of his works were published by Historical Studies. The fourth circuit, Gorlice, was the subject of interest of Andrzej Daszkiewicz, whereas Podhale earned a separate monographic work written by Józef Kasperek and concerning not only ant-Nazi resistance. Andrzej Kozanecki and Andrzej Szczygiel made an attempt to make an outline of the whole of the discussed issues.

In such a situation queries in archive materials should be intensified, including German materials, and the versions so far presented by the historians should be verified. Then the

attempt to reconstruct of a complete course of events can be made. The above-mentioned operations would allow to make a proper analysis, and then the synthesis, of the true course of events.

## **NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMPS AND PRISONS IN CRACOW DISTRICT OF GENERAL- -GOVERNMENT IN THE LIGHT OF POLISH HISTORIOGRAPHIC RESEARCH**

**WOJCIECH ROJEK**

### **SUMMARY**

Investigation of Nazi concentration camps and prisons in Cracow District was started just after the end of the Second World War, which resulted in a significant output.

While considering concentration camps, it is easy to see how uneven the state of research is depending on their location. The most significant are the findings concerning Cracow, where the attention of researchers was focused mainly on the complex of Płaszów camps. The territory of the former Rzeszów province is also comparatively well known; the least is known about the western parts of the district. No important camps were located there, so the sources are also scarce.

The same refers to the research on the prisons. In this case attention was also focused mostly on Cracow, which can be easily understood, as it was the capital not only of the district but of the whole General-Government. That implied increased repression and larger amount of source materials, not all of them destroyed. A good deal is also known about the prisons in Tarnów, Rzeszów, Sanok, and Jasło. Of the more important centres, Przemyśl, Dubieck, and Krosno are lacking adequate studies. Also the institutions subject to municipal and special courts, and criminal or preventive police stations are little, if at all, known.

In this situation the essential research postulates are:

1. to arrange the presently available materials;
2. to correct mistakes;
3. to attempt to penetrate the less known areas.

Though the state of sources available in Poland is highly unsatisfactory (as a result of the occupant's purposeful activity), archive materials should be reviewed once more from a different point of view, and a query in foreign archives is needed, especially of German sources.

## **DISTRICT COMMITTEE FOR INVESTIGATION OF NAZI CRIMES IN CRACOW 1945-1955 (ABSTRACT)**

**RYSZARD KOTARBA**

### **SUMMARY**

The District Committee for Investigation of Nazi Crimes operated from March 29, 1945 till the end of 1953, at first as the Committee for Investigation of Nazi German Crimes at Oświęcim, then as Provincial Division of the Chief Committee for Investigation of Nazi Crimes in Poland, and the District Committee for Investigation of Nazi Crimes in Cracow. The first works were of preservation and research on the former concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau. From the mid-1945 the research was extended on the whole of Nazi policy of extermination of Polish citizens in Cracow region. It included various types of concentration camps (including KL Płaszów), prisons, security police and other formations, the sites of mass crime, executions, pacification of villages, liquidation of Jews, deportation to the Reich as forced labourers, etc. The works were carried out according to the Code of Penal Procedure, and the collected material was used as evidence in preparation of trials of Nazi criminals. With the creation of Polish Military Missions for Investigation of War Crimes on the territory of western

zones in Allies-occupied Germany, a process of extradition of Nazi German war criminals was begun, bringing also a large amount of documentation. Cracow committee got great part of that documentation. Due to the search made on its own initiative it also took over the files of many German offices and other units in Cracow, Silesia and Auschwitz camp. The materials and the investigations were used in pending lawsuits — in those most important before the Highest National Court (the cases of Amon Goeth, Rudolf Hoess, forty members of Auschwitz functionaries, Josef Buhler), as well as in hundreds of trials of various functionaries of Nazi police and administration, and Polish collaborators.

## **POLISH CITIZENS DEPORTED TO SIBERIA (ABSTRACT)**

**TEODOR GAŚSIOROWSKI, ANDRZEJ KULER,  
MAREK NATKANIEC**

### **SUMMARY**

This article was meant as a kind of guide to an already closed exhibition. Therefore it contains almost exclusively a list of exhibits. This enumeration is explained by a very modest author's comment with no pretension to a scientific study of such a broad subject as deportation of Polish citizens into a neighbouring empire.

The exhibition could be divided into several sections chronologically and by subjects, including deportations of Poles, from the times of Kościuszko Insurrection until the outbreak of the Second World War (mainly ethnographic materials and handicraft wares made by the deportees), the history of deportees from the years 1914–1921 (publications, photographs, and correspondence), the history of Polish citizens deported to the North and East in the years 1944–1941 (the majority of the materials), and in the years 1944–1956.

The exhibition was dedicated mainly to the two latter groups of deportees. That is why the specific sections (periods), apart from chronological arrangement, are divided by the authors by subjects: deportations in autumn 1939 and winter 1940, deportees at work, concentrations camps (lagers), religion, children, the activity of Polish agencies in the USSR after 1941, Polish Army in the USSR, everyday life of deportees, the activity of Polish Patriots' Union, the prisoners of the camps in the late 1940's and early 1950's, and return home.

The exhibition was completed by the exhibits connected with the activity of the Union of Siberian Deportees in the period between the two world wars and in the present time.

## **„SILESIAN HOUSE” AT 2 POMORSKA STREET IN CRACOW (ABSTRACT)**

**TEODOR GAŚSIOROWSKI**

### **SUMMARY**

The article briefly reviews the history of the building at 2 Pomorska Street since its erection up to the present time.

Its successive functions are presented: that of the Students' Dormitory, Gestapo headquarters, the seat of an unidentified institution in the late 1940's. Students' Hostel, and, most recently, the Museum.

The successive owners are listed: Association for the Defence of Western Borderland, German State Secret Police, National Defence League.

Most of the article describes the attempts made by various organizations from the late 1940's till 1982, to establish the Museum of Struggle and Martyrdom at 2 Pomorska Street (later

Wybickiego Street). Those attempts were crowned by a partial success when Cracow municipalities offered one room in Silesian House for exhibitions.

The author also describes the problems of the already existing Branch of the Historical Museum of the City of Cracow: troublesome neighbourhood, constant problems with restoration of inscriptions on the walls of the former Gestapo cells.

The terminate, the author mentions research works carried out by research workers of the Branch which does not have its own collection.

## **MILITARY FIGHTING UNION CRACOW. SECTION II — SUB-SECTION C „KRYSTYNA” COMPANY**

ROMAN MEDWICZ

### **SUMMARY**

Establishment and organization of „Krystyna” Company, Sub-Section C, of Cracow Military Fighting Union became the subject of memories of R. Medwicz — the founder and commandant of the company from October 1939 till August 1941. The account is written in a vivid style and deals with the formation of Polish Underground State. It is illustrated by the actions of Military Fighting Union on the level of a sub-section. The ways and extent of reconnaissance made by the Union and training of the soldiers are described. Apart from technical information, the examples of carelessness leading to unmasking the organization, as well as the examples of spontaneous sacrifice, like in destruction of documentation at advocate Truszkowski's, office can be found in the article. All information given by Medwicz includes the names of his colleagues, which increases the value of the memories for research works.

Setting the situation of Poland and the Poles (from Cracow's conspiratorial organizations) against the background of international affairs allows to show public feelings in early occupation, and especially the citizens' hopes and expectations. The defeat of France and German-Soviet war clearly shows variation of feelings of Polish people, and in particular in Polish conspiracy. When conspiratorial activity is compared and set against the background of the globally important events, the Polish struggle gains the right proportions.

Improvised creation of the Polish army and underground state, sometimes against the principles of conspiracy, was sure to bring numerous victims. „Krystyna” Company also did not avoid mishaps. Its commandant R. Medwicz was denounced and exposed and had to leave Cracow. It saved him life, but many of his colleagues who also served the homeland had worse luck and lost their lives.

## **IN THE OCCUPIED CRACOW — COMBATANT'S MEMORIES (ABSTRACT)**

WŁADYSŁAW BYRSKI

### **SUMMARY**

The memories cover the period from the capitulation of the Army „Cracow” in Lublin area till late autumn 1943.

The author, who was wounded during the last fightings near Lublin, describes his way back to Cracow from where he had set out for the battle and the story of his stay in the occupied town — the first weeks spent in the hospital at Kopernika Street, threat of amputation of a hand, then the convalescence. He reminds the ways he was treated by medical staff (ranging from reporting him to the Germans as a wounded patient with civil documents to helping him to escape from the hospital).

Having escaped from the hospital, the author got a job as teletechnician (which was his profession) in the Main Post Office. He joined the Union for Military Action. On behalf of the

organization he collected information from his German acquaintances. Making use of his official pass, he transferred people and conspiratorial materials over the border of the General-Government to Silesia.

Protected by his postman's uniform, he could transport various things indispensable in conspiratorial activity (arms, documents, papers, and even a typewriter taken in one of actions).

In 1942 he participated in the execution on a Gestapo confident operating in Cracow, sentenced to death by the Special Military Court.

The author's conspiratorial activity was stopped by his arrestation in Bielsko on October 28, 1943.

## INTERVIEW WITH ZDZISŁAW RUSZEL (ABSTRACT)

JANUSZ T. NOWAK

### SUMMARY

Zdzisław Ruszel was born on July 20, 1930 in Cracow. By profession he is a car mechanic. In 1977 he was one of the 5 co-founders of Cracow Collectors' Club.

Z. Ruszel is a many-sided collector. His collection contains mainly various memorabilia connected with the history of Poland. Postcards and Polish military eagles prevail. His collection of postcards numbers about 10,000 pieces divided into the following subjects: views of Cracow, important events in Cracow, Tadeusz Kościuszko, Józef Piłsudski, Polish Legions, Lwów and other towns on the eastern border, photos of Polish painting, Children, Women, Christmas and Easter. Among the eagles the most noteworthy are: the eagle from a flag-staff from the January Insurrection of 1863, the eagle of cadre company of Piłsudski's Legions, the eagles manufactured during the Second World War by partisans. The collection numbers 300 exhibits and includes also the eagles from the period between the two world wars, and the eagles of Polish Armed Forces in the West and of Polish People's Army.

Medals from the nineteenth and twentieth century form another important section of Z. Ruszel's collection (about 150 pieces). They include, among others, the medals related to Tadeusz Kościuszko, Adam Mickiewicz, Priest Piotr Skarga, Józef Ignacy Kraszewski, Józef Piłsudski, January Insurrection, and Polish Legions.

Z. Ruszel contains also a number of valuable unique historic mementoes, such as, for instance, a ball which was found in the field of battle of Maciejowice, some interesting diplomas accompanying medals of Polish Legions and from the defense of Lwów in 1918, mugs with patriotic decorations, regiment emblems, occasional badges.

The exhibits from Z. Ruszel's collection were shown at over 200 exhibitions, often organized on his own initiative. They are much appreciated by the visitors, which is testified by numerous inscriptions in visitors' books kept by Z. Ruszel for more than 15 years now.