

Marek Wawrzynkowski, Relationships of Polish Army with civilians on DOK nr VIII territory in 1921 -1939.

After the end of Polish-Bolsheviks war Polish Army had to considered peaceful terms and new way of operating. This also change relationships and way of cooperating army with civilians. Identical things happened on DOK nr VIII territory (kind of army's province which includes today's Pomorskie and Kujawsko - Pomorskie provinces). Relations of Polish Army and civilians on DOK nr VIII territory existed on many levels.

The first level was formal relationships. They had places between institution of Polish Army and local authorities. They included: workflow of documents, border matters, infrastructure of town and cities, road and streets, housing office and confiscations, recruits, army reserves, sports and civil defence training. Cooperations in this matters proceeded in different ways. From conflicts and aversion, through different ways of compromise to end on good cooperation. The problem in agreement between these two sides were different interests and points of view. However in years 1921-1939 both sides put a lot of work and time to built better relationships. Not always it was a success, but it had it's moments and to bring about good cooperation. In all these matters Polish Army intercourse with single civilians, with the same effect as with institutions.

Polish Army also work in social and civil matters with civilians. It was expressed in sports and civil defence training which I already mentioned but also in charity and cultural and educational matters (theatres, libraries, cinemas, schools, orchestras and different kinds of festivity and ceremony). Besides that Polish Army support civilians also civilians support the Army (also in financial way).

Equalel important element of Army's presence on DOK nr VIII territory was trading, buisness and services. Army was a quite big institution which influence a local market of those things and infrastructure but also local firms and craftsmanship. Some of the business relationships was build on contracts (chose contractors, work and account for it). But also there was more intentional and short way of doing business with Army. The scale of those business were different from little trade with one soldier, through business with regiment or whole DOK nr VIII. Quality of works, contracts, business were various and sometimes it become problematic. But more often both sides managed to improve those contacts on acceptable level by both sides.

The most controversial and problematic relationship between Army and civilians on DOK nr VIII territory involve offences, violations and crimes in which took part people serving in Polish Army. Officers and soldiers of Polish Army were perpetrators, observers or victims of crimes. Spectrum of those violations and crimes were wide, from light to heavy. The most common of them was road traffic offences, theft, joastling and brawls on streets or in bars (where there were used fists, tool's knives and firearms). Most of them were connected with abuse or overbuse of alcohol by one or both sides of the conflicts. However soldiers and officers intervained when accidents or crimes were committed. Sometimes they not only helped victims but also saved their money, estate, things and sometimes saved from injurs, wounds and their lives.

No doubt Polish Army on DOK nr VIII territory, influenced on civilians lives in many aspects. Sometimes Army was initiated them, other times only cooperation or supervising. But also sometimes they suppressed or disturbed them which complicated relationships with civilians.

My dissertation is trying to determine causes, borders, forms of relationships and consequences of them.