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THE AIR AND CHEMICAL DEFENSE OF SCHOOL STUDENTS ON THE TERRITORY OF STANISLAV VOIVODSHIP AS A PEDAGOGICAL ISSUE (1920-1930S)

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У статті порушено проблему організаційного становлення системи місцевої протиповітряної та протигазової (протихімічної) оборони Другої Речі Посполитої на території Станіславського воєводства в період з початку 20-х років і до початку Другої Світової війни. На основі різних джерел продемонстровано генезу та основні напрямки діяльності Ліги протиповітряної та протигазової оборони з підготовки учнівської молоді в закладах освіти, громадських організаціях та об'єднаннях населення Станіславського воєводства до протиповітряної і протихімічної оборони. Акцентовано увагу на ідеологічно-полонізаційній складовій діяльності цієї організації в регіоні.

Ключові слова: протиповітряна оборона, протигазова оборона, учнівська молодь, захист населення, повітряний напад, група самозахисту, індивідуальні засоби захисту.

В статье затронута проблема организационного становления системы местной противовоздушной и противогазовой (противохимической) обороны Второй Речи Посполитой на территории Станиславского воєводства в период с начала 20-х годов и до начала Второй Мировой войны. На основе различных источников продемонстрированы генезис и основные направления деятельности Лиги противовоздушной и противогазовой обороны по подготовке учащейся молодежи в учебных заведениях, общественных организациях и объединениях населения Станиславского воєводства к противовоздушной и противохимической обороне. Акцентируется внимание на идеологической и полонизационной составляющей деятельности этой организации в регионе.

Ключевые слова: противовоздушная оборона, противогазовая оборона, учащаяся молодежь, защита населения, воздушное нападение, группа самозащиты, индивидуальные средства защиты.

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The given article concerns the issue of the organizational establishment of the system of local air and chemical defence of Second Rzeczpospolita on the territory of Stanislav voivodship from the beginning of the 1920s to the beginning of World War II. The demonstration of the genesis and the main directions of the activity of the Air and Chemical Defence League relating to preparing the school students at educational establishments, public organizations and associations of Stanislav voivodship for air and chemical defence is based on various sources of information. The emphasis is put on ideological and polonizing principles of the activity of the organization in the region.

Key words: air defense, chemical defense, school students, defense of a population, air attack, self-defense group, individual means of defense.

Formulation of the problem. The appearance of military aviation capable of attacking the rear at a considerable distance from a front line as well as the first in war history use of chemical weapon by the German army in 1915 caused the danger of bombing and chemicals not only military forces but also to civilians living in front-line areas. That required the special means of air and chemical defence and taking measures to protect people in the zone of action of enemy aviation and special education regarding this issue.

That is why after the annexation of the West Ukrainian People's Republic by Poland in an interwar period many various public paramilitary organizations were founded on its territory, which was a potential arena of military action of European countries. This

was necessary for polonization and spreading Polish segment in the region as well as for military education, which was needed because of constant military threat from USSR. Moreover, the given organizations were in need of staff and a system of military education of population and preparation for air and chemical defense.

Formulation of targets of the article. Modern theoretical and methodological approaches to examining the educational and public activity of Second Rzeczpospolita are based on the tradition national Historiography. The problem of addressing issues related to the educational activity of polonizing organizations in the history of Pedagogics has a great empirical value since it provides theoretical basis of the research. The experi-



ence gained forms a reliable basis for further improvement of the methodology of civil defense with school students.

Analysis of the last investigations. It is obvious that the given issue has not been investigated in national Historiography and historical and pedagogical science and in scientific literature in general. But some aspects of the problem are analyzed in some Polish resources. For example, M. Marshalk in her dissertation mentioned the issue of the genesis of the Air and Chemical Defense League. Z. Kozak and V. Medretsky conducted research in aspects of the given issue. A considerable number of sources for research is kept in the Ivano-Frankivsk state archive. Hence, the target of the work is a generalising analysis of practical aspects of the work related to the organization of air and chemical defence of a school student and their specific features on the territory of Stanislav voivodship.

In order to achieve the target we must do the following tasks:

1. To characterize the genesis of appearing of the practice of work of air and chemical defense with school students on the territory of Stanislav voivodship in the period of Second Rzeczpospolita;

2. To describe the genesis of appearing of the practice of work of air and chemical defense with school students on the territory of Stanislav voivodship in the period of Second Rzeczpospolita;

3. To analyze the main features of the system of air and chemical defense of school students;

4. To substantiate the main factors of the process of Polonization of school students while teaching air and chemical defense.

The **object** of the research – the process of forming of measures of air and chemical protection of school students in Stanislav voivodship in a period of Second Rzeczpospolita.

The **subject** of investigation – pedagogical conditions of air and chemical defense of school students in Stanislav voivodship in a period of Second Rzeczpospolita.

Presentation of the main findings. The introduction of teaching material of air and chemical defense in schools was required in most cases by the experience from World War I when these types of weapon were used. On this account, the providing of the entire population with the necessary knowledge in the air and the chemical defense was a top priority. A lot of different public organizations and voluntary associations of citizens, who propagated air and chemical defense took part in a defensive activity. The elements of air and chemical defense were added to sub-

jects in educational establishments such as Physical culture, History, Physics.

The Air and Chemical Defense League did a lot of work regarding spreading the knowledge in air and chemical defense among Western Ukrainian population of different age groups.

The Air and Chemical Defense League is a paramilitary organization which emerged as the result of the merger the Air Defense League and the Chemical defense Association in 1928. The conception of Poland about the necessity of protection of the state and public safety in the given region near Soviet border indicated the emergence and distribution of the given organization on Western Ukrainian territories. Hitherto the League was educational organization and spread the knowledge in aviation, building the infrastructure, organization of pilot courses and meetings/competitions. Its membership was made up of people with a direct relation to aviation. That is why, according to Piotrowski, the members of that organization were reluctant to merge with the Association of Chemical Defense, closely connected with police, the fire service, and many other organizations, embedded in Polish state structures. As one of the elements of polonization, Polish authority had to found this organization because the same measures had been already taken in the Soviet Union, where the tendencies of correlation of chemical and air weapon occurred in 1927. Moreover, it was a measure demonstrating of moving away from the possibility of teaching the population how to use a chemical weapon, which had been prohibited by international law since 1925. Hence on May 28, 1927, the Air Defense League and since July 3 the Association of Chemical Defense held a meeting, where they decided to unite these organizations and then elected the representatives of Stanislav voivodship and agreed on the schedule of work of a new organization. Then, on February 10, 1928, the Air Defense League merged with the Association of Chemical Defense. They adopted a new name – Air and Chemical Defense League and elected a temporary management bureau. The ultimate fusion was in May the same year, and the regulations of the organization were adopted [3, sheet 43-44].

In the beginning of its functioning on Western Ukrainian territories, Air and Chemical Defense League encouraged Polish citizens to support that establishment which was necessary for the protection of the state [6, sheet 224], though, the main aim of this organization was to create a powerful national Polish aviation and chemical preparation [4, sheet 262].



In the letters to headmasters of secondary schools in Stanislav voivodship, they argued that: «school students would like the idea of a strong aviation and air defense and when they liked it they would cherish and spread it, and thus they would become real members of the League [1, sheet 203]».

Furthermore, the Air and Chemical Defense was given great support from school administrations, which was legally adopted as the result of the circular of a school district in Lviv, approved on 13th April 1932 and published in the official magazine of the Curatorium №8 since August 25, 1932 «*Regulamin wewnętrzny i wytyczne do działalności Kył Szkolnych L.O.P.P.*». For that reason, the administration of the district of Stanislav voivodship appealed to the voivode for the same activity and association of school groups of the Air and Chemical Defense League in Stanislav voivodship with the aim of preparing the students for air and chemical defense. Because according to I. Chervinsky «the understanding of students from Stanislav voivodship the idea of a strong aviation and well-organized air and chemical defence is a basis of welfare in time of peace and the guarantee of safety during the war» [2, p. 24].

Because of that, the day of air and the chemical defense was established in the voivodship.

The Air and Chemical Defense League started its work on the territory of Stanislav oblast on January 20, 1934, when the authority of the povit in their letter to a school inspector asked to allocate assembly halls of secondary schools of Stanislav city for conducting 6 lectures on February when students were on holidays. It was also suggested to use those rooms to provide information to adult civilians.

Every lecture lasted approximately for 1,5–2 hours and was usually given in the evening between 4 and 6 p. m., though in some cases these lessons were conducted immediately after classes. It is interesting that all the expenses, relating to lighting, heating and even nourishment, were covered by the povit committee of the Air and Chemical Defense League [1, sheet 14].

However, monthly reports, stumps and membership awards, which cost 10 groshes apiece, could be given by a school inspector as well as from the main administrator of school groups of the Air and Chemical Defense League at secondary schools.

It was decided to organize school groups of the Air and Chemical Defense League (Koł szkolnych (uczniowskich) L.O.P.P.) for better coordination and effectiveness of providing students with educational knowledge, though,

as it has been mentioned above, organizing of these school groups required a certain monthly fee (10 groshes per child), from which the poorest students were released. Unlike students, teachers had to pay 50 groshes monthly. When they were not the members of local groups of the Air and Chemical Defense League, they could belong to their school group of the Air and Chemical Defense League as real members [1, sheet 25].

Educators commenced intensive propagandist actions among children of their school groups immediately after students declared the given 10-groshes monthly pay (except for, as mentioned above, the poor). Moreover, «in order to improve the pedagogical process, the propaganda was also conducted among students' parents» [1, sheet 13].

On special occasions, students could pay 5 groshes on the basis of the resolution of the General Assembly of school groups (Ogólne-go Zgromadzenia Koła), which was approved by the Section of the circles of school administrators in the district of the voivodship (Sekcję Opiekunów Kył Szkolnych przy Okręgu Wojewydzkim) [1, sheet 25].

By the way, it is worth mentioning that all the students had the membership cards and the badges of the Air and Chemical Defense League.

It is interesting that the surnames of children, who had not paid the entire 10-grosh fee, were written down by pencils. Those who have paid the whole sum had their surnames written in ink. The lists of students containing the graphs of a creed, membership tabs and grades they studied at were in two copies, one of which was owned by the administrator of a school group (usually a headmaster) and another was sent to the local committee of the Air and Chemical Defense League situated in Rohatyn.

All the teachers had to propagandize the school group of the Air and Chemical Defense League among students. However, A few local school groups, which acted in accordance with regulations, approved by the school administration, could form at schools. Those school groups had to consist of more than 10 members and functioned as a school self-government. Both students and pedagogical staff could be members of the given groups, though in some cases the group could consist of teachers and students.

In some cases, these organizations existed at multi-class schools «class sections», whose delegations were included to the Office of the School Board (Zarządu Koła Szkolnego), responsible for organizing the students at school and formed by authorities of the school group of the Air and Chemical De-



fense League. The Office of the School Board consisted of a president, a secretary, a treasurer (elected by the General Assembly of the Circle) and of delegations of class sections (if such existed), approved by the General Assembly of the Circle.

The authorities of a local school circle could manage all the circles at school, where an administrator was the most important person, who managed and coordinated the circles as well as having representative functions, delegated by the School Board. An administrator could make all the decisions of school circles invalid [1, sheet 13].

Furthermore, this person exercised control over the work of Circles, treasury, and cash transaction [1, sheet 25].

The main administrator of all school circles that were founded at general education schools (szkołach powszechnych) of the povit was a school inspector of the given povit. The administrator at a secondary school (szkoła średniej ogólnokształcącej), professional school (zawodowej), teacher seminary (seminarium nauczycielskim) was the headmaster of the given educational institution.

The Section of circles of school administrators (Sekcja Opiekunów Kół Szkolnych) was founded at the District Board of Directors (Zarządzie Obwodu Powiatowego) on the territories with more than 3 administrators.

The administrator (or the chairman of the section) was supposed to send to the Office of the School Board (Zarządu Koła Szkolnego), or to the local Air and Chemical Defense League and to the Curatorium of the school district the data for the last academic year every year until September 1. This data included including the number of school groups of the Air and Chemical Defense League, the number of students and contributions collected on the basis of materials given from school groups [1, sheet 25].

Polish authorities paid considerable attention to how ordinary teachers provided the students with knowledge in air and chemical defense while teaching their subjects. Since, as it was stated in the letter of the Air and Chemical Defense League to the school inspector of Stanislav city on December 15 1934: «by doing this work the teacher will do an invaluable favor for the school students from villages, who prevailed in the given voivodship, for there is a lack of appropriate staff in the country» [1, apk. 19].

For that reason, a range of information courses in the sphere of aviation and the Air and Chemical Defense League was given to subject teachers during winter holidays. The whole program of the course encompassed approximately 12 theoretical classes and

8 practical seminars. These courses were held in Stanislav, Halych, Lysets, Bohorodchany and other places [sheet 19].

It is necessary to emphasize a considerable increase in the number of members of the organization. For example, there were 1 418 512 members of the Air and Chemical Defense League on the entire territory of Poland in 1936 [2, sheet. 3], and there were 400 schools, built on the territory of Stanislav voivodship in 1933 [1, sheet 21].

Conclusion. The air and Chemical Defense League was one of the biggest paramilitary polonizing organizations in the interwar period on the territory of Stanislav voivodship. A very rapid development was caused by defense and education issues, required by a future potential war and a strong propaganda campaign in the given region. The population of the region understood the targets for strengthening Polish Aviation and providing the population with knowledge of the chemical defense. However, the Air and Chemical Defense League, like any other organization of the region, was the organization of polonizing character, encouraging the school youth to care about Poland. We have identified an important role of the organization in the development of important knowledge in defense and the practice of preparing the students in the region. Hence, **the perspective of further investigations in the given direction** lies in more detailed studying of the sense and content of the work of the organization and a positive use of historic and pedagogical experience for modern civil defense in Ukrainian secondary schools.

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