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Summary of the PhD dissertation

**Military health care in the Second Republic. District Polish Army Corps No. IV in Lodz.**

Today, the health service is the definition of state services responsible for health care of its citizens. In the Second Polish Republic, the notion of public health was introduced by the law of 15 June 1939. However, much earlier, just after Poland regained its independence, matters related to the protection of the health of the society of an independent state, in addition to the need to regulate other important social issues, were one of the most important areas in which then the government began to operate. Already in 1918, the division of health care, into the civil and military divisions, was also visible.

The aim of the dissertation was to present the main aspects of military health care during the Second Polish Republic, focusing mainly on the research at the Corps District No. IV in Lodz.

This elaboration focuses on years 1918-1939. The title of the dissertation - it would seem inconsistent - because Corps District was created in 1921. However, its structures were based on pre-existing structures of General Districts. Therefore, it was not possible to present the structures of military health care at District Polish Army Corps No. IV, without discussing their immediate predecessors.

This topic required undertaking, because in the Polish historiography the problem of military health care was discussed, however, without a significantly distinguished aspect of Lodz. Nowadays, interdisciplinary research is becoming more and more popular. Many researchers have to face this problem. In particular areas, the research methods are differ from each other. There are research areas that are hard to qualify for one cognitive method. The status of medicine in my research method is humanistic.

The doctoral dissertation has been divided into three chapters, which are arranged thematically, in a way that makes it easier to get to know the presented issue.

First chapter, entitled: *The Ministry of Military Affairs in the years 1918-1939*. This is the introductory chapter, not only the reader to this subject, but also for further research. This chapter shows complicated structures of The Ministry of Military Affairs. Discussion and analysis of it was necessary for the location of military-medical structures in the above ministry. Without understanding the many changes in the structures of The Ministry of

Military Affairs - it would be extremely difficult, even impossible - presenting the history of military health care in a chronological and problematic way.

Chapter two: *Military sanitary service in the Second Polish Republic* is a chapter, which talks directly about military medicine in the Second Polish Republic – about the organization and structures, medical education, health problems of soldiers of the Polish Army - their treatment and treatment of their families, the role of civilian health care and the Polish Red Cross, and also about military sanitary services on the eve of the outbreak of World War II.

The third chapter, entitled: *Military health service in the Polish Army Corps No. IV in Lodz*.

Presents the most important aspects of military health in the Corps District No. IV Łódź. Its structure is significantly expanded and more complicated. It consists of subsections, which are divided into even smaller subsections.

At the outset, the author explains the organizational structure of the field health service – which it constructively refers to the first and the second chapter. The whole create cause-and-effect relationship, which allows deep understanding of the issue. Next, the author present the six profiles of sanitary heads: płk. lek. med. Kazimierza Steiera, płk. lek. med. Stefana Rajmunda Wojciecha Miłodrowskiego, płk. lek. med. Mieczysława Marxa, płk. lek. med. Stanisława Więckowskiego, ppłk./płk. lek. med. Edwarda Wertheima oraz płk. lek. dr. med. Kazimierza Baranowskiego. Then the author takes up the problem of regional executive bodies of the military health service.

The Sanitary Chief in the IV Corps District has been subject to control since 1921 by four executive bodies: IV district hospital, personnel of the sanitary backup company, sanitary battalion and sanitary storage. Not all of the above structures, were described because the source were not preserved. However, the District Hospital in Łódź, which was the most important element, was described the best. It was the parent company for all field formations and sanitary facilities formed in the Łódź region – therefore, according to the author, in this subsection, it was necessary to pay the most attention. At the head of the District Hospital from November 1918 to September 1939, permanent commandants. In Łódź, over the years discussed, the position was seven times. These changes had been taken into an account and elaborated on the basis of many sources, press and archive materials of the Central Military Archives.

Subsequently, they have been analyzed health problems of soldiers Corps District No. IV in the years 1919-1931. In each Corps District could be observed some statistics of diseases - their increase or decrease. In the subsection for comparative purposes they were deliberately

presented statistical data of diseases affecting a soldier from other Corps' Districts. The author tried to discuss the available statistical documents from 1922-1931 and present the picture of diseases occurring in Polish Army Corps No. IV in Lodz.

The surviving statistical sources of the military health service allow for the presentation of subsequent years, but not for the whole of the district. Fortunately, the best materials are preserved about Łódź (until 1937) - the main center of the Corps District No. IV.

Therefore, on their basis, the author continues the narrative - assuming that the health problems of soldiers in other centers in Corps District No. IV were very similar to those stationed in the Lodz garrison.

On the example of troops stationed in Łódź,, it was also possible to discuss prophylaxis and treatment of diseases occurring in the Corps District No. IV. We should remember that, health problems discussed in the previous subsection were similar and characteristic for the entire Corps District No. IV . Military authorities knew that if they wanted to reduce the number of sick soldiers, they had used health prophylaxis in Lodz military branches.

Then - again thematically referring to the previous chapters - the author focuses on the role of civilian sanitary service in the Corps District No. IV, which in this region was primarily the Branch of the Polish Red Cross in Lodz. In the sanitary field, the army in Lodz was supported by: Sisters Section, Sanitary Section, Military Hospital Care Section, and Read Section.

The Lodz health service in 1939 in relations - is the subsection that ends the dissertation. It closes the chronological relationship about military health in the most important center of the Corps District No. IV. - in Lodz.

In addition, to the continuous narrative, in the dissertation we find many tables, charts and diagrams. Placing them was to facilitate understanding of the complicated structure and issues. Posted illustrations enrich the value of work. Placing them directly in the text it will make the reader diversified.

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