

Summary

During World War II, many underground organizations were established in occupied Poland, aiming to fight against the occupants. Związek Walki Zbrojnej – Armia Krajowa (The Union of Armed Struggle - the Home Army) was a legal Polish army in the country. This organization was established on behalf of the Polish government in Exile. Its aim was to include other smaller organizations in its structures. This work concerns the intelligence and counterintelligence activities of the ZWZ-AK in the Radomsko-Kielce District.

Military intelligence included observation of dislocation and deployment of units of the German army and other formations, including paramilitary ones. Its aim was to recognize what kind of units were deployed there, in what direction they were moving and what strength and means they had at their disposal. Through the area of the Radomsko-Kielecki District there were railway lines leading to the eastern front and back (there was a connection with the eastern front).

Industrial intelligence was very crucial. The Germans occupied Polish industrial plants, factories, and stores. They controlled agriculture, trade, and the entire economy. Arms factories, producing for the benefit of the German army, were of particular importance. Intelligence was interested in data on production, its size, type, direction, where goods were sent, from where raw materials were imported, etc. The Allies, including Polish conspirators, gaining knowledge about the location of such objects and the type of production, were able to destroy, bombard, sabotage.

Political interview meant gathering information about German intentions with respect to the Polish population, for example about quota share, about roundups for forced labor in Germany, about pacification of villages and fight against guerrillas. Counter-intelligence also fought against those who act to the detriment of the Polish state and cooperate with the enemy, as well as the occupiers themselves.

The candidates for the intelligence service were to have the appropriate traits and skills, and often pass a kind of exam checking their skills and fitness for duty. Intelligence specialists were trained how to do their duty, as well as ensuring proper security.

The interview of ZWZ-AK in the Radomsko-Kielce District was well organized. It can be said that in almost every commune, in every village and town, there were members of this organization that dealt with intelligence, counterintelligence, or cooperate with them. Among these people were representatives of both sexes, many different professions, mostly young and middle-aged people.

The results of the work were satisfactory, as evidenced by the opinions, assessments of the allies as well enemy - the Germans themselves. Poles in the Radomsko-Kielce District identified moving units of the German army. They had detailed knowledge of production in industrial plants and factories for the benefit of the German army. They made technical drawings of these goods, as well as plans and maps of cities, buildings, e.g. German institutions. This enabled effective subversive attacks on these objects. They drew up lists of people cooperating with the occupant and worked on such persons, obtained the material needed to present the accusation in the WSS. They destroyed denunciations of Poles and warned people at risk. This was important because it referred to the security of residents, including members of the ZWZ-AK or other organizations fighting with Germany.

The important merits of the intelligence of the ZWZ-AK of the Radomsko-Kielecki District were information about the following planned by the Germans actions: an attack on the Soviet Union and battles in Africa. The Soviets also benefited from the intelligence passed to them during the offensive at the end of the war, obtaining detailed information about the location of the German army.