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SUMMARY

Subject: **The Second Light Artillery Regiment of the Legions**

The subject of this doctoral thesis is the history of the Second Light Artillery Regiment of the Legions in the period of 1919–1939. It was a part of the Second Infantry Division of the Legions. It has significant merits in the history of the Polish Army of interwar period, which haven't been described so far. Until the end of 1931 the unit was called the Second Field Artillery Regiment of the Legions. This dissertation presents the functioning of this military unit, from its formation till dissolution.

The main aim of the thesis is to characterize the organization, boarding, the soldiers, the unit's activities, as well as the specific character of the artillery unit of the Polish Army in the period of The Second Republic.

The research based on a wide archival query in the Central Military Depository of the Historical Military Office in Warsaw, the State Archive in Kielce and the Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum in London, has led to following conclusions: The regiment was formed in June 1919. The batteries of the unit fought between 1919-1920 within the Second Infantry Division of the Legions and the Seventeenth Infantry Division composed of the Fourth Army, the First Army, the Third Army, the Fifth Army and the Second Army against the Red Army. From September 1922 to August of 1939, the regiment stationed in the garrison of Kielce. Its primary aim was to train and bring up soldiers. The unit played an important part in the city's life. The artillerymen took part in various events and celebrations, including military, state and ecclesial. They ran social, economic, educational, cultural and sports activities among the society of Kielce and around. They contributed to the development of Kielce, which became less provincial. In 1933, the Second Light Artillery Regiment of the Legions was awarded with the citizenship of Kielce, for the merits in favour of the city. In the Polish Campaign in 1939 the unit conducted military activities against Germans within the Second Infantry Division of the Legions in „Łódz” Army and next in the Operating Group of General Wiktor

Thommée. It was resolved after the capitulation of Modlin. Its second echelon, i.e. batteries from the I and II division of the Fifty-fifth Light Artillery Regiment fought within the Group of Colonel Glabisz, the „Sandomierz” Group, the Third Infantry Brigade, the Nineteenth Infantry Brigade, the „Stalowa Wola” Group and the Independent Operating Group „Polesie”. Currently, the memory of the regiment is cultivated by the Association of Families and Enthusiasts of the Second Light Artillery Regiment of the Legions in Kielce, which was formed in 2009.