

PhD's ABSTRACT

Title: "Prison administration and prison guards in Poland 1918 - 1939"

The most important goal and motive for undertaking such formulated problem of the dissertation is the fact that the Polish prison system of the II Polish Republic is an area rarely undertaken in scientific research. In the current literature, there was no topic regarding the professional group - prison officers of the discussed period.

At that time, then prison service played an important role in building and strengthening an independent state. It was made up of people who were devoted to their work, people with pro-state attitudes. They were not always prepared to perform their tasks, often - especially in the first years of independence - they had a vague notion about them, but there were such needs and requirements of that moment.

In addition, there is a need to emphasize and describe the ethos of the pre-war prison service, which was voluntary - clerical. Oath, uniforms, weapons, orders are the attributes of this formation. In the work, an attempt was made to examine not only professional activity, but also to show their financial situation, social status and extramural life. The analysis of these issues was based on broad archival sources and available literature. The legal bases for the functioning of the penitentiary system in the Second Polish Republic were presented, with particular emphasis on the role, tasks and importance of prison staff in this system. An assessment of the attitudes of prison guard officers and determination of the prison officers' contribution to the development of internal security of the country and shaping the correct system of law enforcement was carried out.

The work consists of four chapters. In the first chapter, introducing into the issues, the general characterization of the organization of penitentiaries in the II Polish Republic was made. Starting from the historical outline, the focus was then on the legal basis of the functioning of the prison system of this period, its organization and principles, the technical condition of the prison infrastructure, and the sanitary and hygienic condition of the prisons. An attempt was made to assess which path of organizational and technical modernization passed the Polish prison system during the 20 years of its existence.

The second emphasizes the characteristics of the professional group of Prison Guard officers. Assuming that it was not the same for all employees, a separate characterization was made of the heads of prisons, senior and lower officers. A separate place was devoted to

contract staff who, although not officers, played an important role in the life of every prison, that is doctors, teachers and chaplains.

The third chapter discusses and analyzes the service life of Prison Guard officers. Particular attention was paid to employment and professional development, training of the prison service, material conditions and terms of service. An important part of this chapter is the assessment of the relationship between the officers themselves and the relations between the prison staff and prisoners. In addition, trade union activities and social activity of officers were analyzed.

Chapter four is an attempt to describe the private life of officers, about which there is the least sources and information. It analyzed the family status, education and recreation of children. The cultural offer, which prison authorities directed to officers and their families, was evaluated. It gathered scattered information about the interests of individual officers. A separate place was devoted to the ideological influence of the state on this professional group through the organization and celebration of the world of state and other celebrations. The dissertation is crowned with: ending, annexes and extensive bibliography.

Due to the contributing, fragmentary and not always objective nature of the previous studies and publications on pre-war prisons and their political significance in the doctoral thesis, a special role was attributed to archival materials, which largely determine its innovative character.

The work benefited from the rich sources collected, among others, in the State Archives of the Capital City of Warsaw. The materials of Branch III in Milanówek deserves attention – the part: Penal Prison of Mokotów, Mokotów Detention Center Warsaw - Mokotów ul. 37 Rakowiecka, Branch in Nidzica, files of the Mokotów Prison. Material collected at the State Archives in Bydgoszcz - prisons: in Koronowo and Bydgoszcz, as well as in the National Archives in Krakow, concerning the criminal prison in Krakow, and especially the prison in Wiśnicz, proved valuable. On the other hand, the query in the archives of the District Court in Krakow allowed to get acquainted with some of the files of the prison governors. The materials collected at the State Archives in Kielce were examined extensively, including personal files of prison employees in Kielce, Busko, Jędrzejów, Chęciny, Święty Krzyż and materials from the Archives Branch in Sandomierz. The valuable knowledge contained the internal orders of the prison system collected in the Kielce Archive issued by the Ministry of Justice in the interwar period. An extensive source was the Home Archive of the family of Andrzej Reszczyk, including relations, personnel documents and photographs.

As noted earlier, there is a very scant literature regarding the subject of research, and thus the prison system of the II Polish Republic, and even more so the subject, or group of officers of the Prison Guard. Few studies have been prepared that would relate to prison problems during the interwar period. One of them is the "Jubilee Book of Polish Prison System 1918-1928" published in 1929. We find in it a lot of valuable material regarding the problems of building the foundations of the Polish prison system, a little less information about the officers themselves. An important study was published by Zygmunt Bugajski, a theoretician and practitioner of the pre-war prison system, the book "The New Organization of Polish Prison in Historical Light". Remaining in the literature of the II Polish Republic, it should be emphasized that not a little of knowledge about the penitentiary system at that time, but also about the service and situation of prison officers was published by the press. First of all, periodicals issued by prison trade unions should be distinguished, namely the monthly "Prison Worker" (1922-1925), and from 1925 the monthly "Polish Prison System Review", transformed in 1936 into a quarterly. In the same year, the biweekly "In the Penitentiary Service" began to appear, which was an important source of knowledge about the life and service of officers, while maintaining a certain amount of criticism in terms of pompous and affirmative tones and content of this periodical.

With caution and skepticism, one should treat Stefania Sempołowska's "In Prisons" published after the war. A number of relatively objective studies have appeared, including Michał Czerwiec, a pre-war officer who in 1958 published "Prisonership. An outline of prison development". After 1989, the priority palm in research on the interwar penitentiary should be handed over to the Central Training Center of the Prison Service in Kalisz and related researchers. Above all, the works of Karol Pawlak "Polish Prison System in the years 1918-1939", "Behind bars of prisons and wire of camps. Outline of prison history in Poland" should be distinguished and its rich journalism. The author of many publications devoted to pre-war officers, published inter alia in the pages of the "Polish Prison System Review", is Krystian Bedyński.

An in-depth analysis and knowledge of the available literature on the subject, as well as research on the source material - archival, have decisively influenced the innovative and pioneering nature of the work.

Key words: Prison system of the Second Polish Republic, Prison service, Prisons, Heads of prisons, Prison clerks, Prison guards, Contract employee, Prisoners, Prison administration