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*Counterintelligence defence of  
General District / Corps District No. V  
in Krakow in the years 1918–1939*

**Summary**

The 1920s and 1930s flowed by the creation of new states, battles for borders, attempts of building an integrated Polish security system, shaping international relations, and obtaining informations on military potential and enemy intentions. This effort was undertaken by both the military intelligence services of the Second Polish Republic and other countries of the world. The aim of the dissertation was to analyze of the counterintelligence protection carried out by the created for this purpose, a field outpost, i.e. the Independent Information Office functioning at the Corps District Command No. V in Krakow (this name was used from 1924). On these area, the Independent Information Office performed counterintelligences tasks in the years 1918–1939.

The assumption of the work was to analyze the activity of the Polish counterintelligence institution and security the area which was under its protection, in the context of combating espionage from the most important directions, i.e. German, Czechoslovak and Soviet, as well as particular national minorities occurring in military units and in the socio-political reality of this district. Outlining the complete activity of Independent Information Office of CD No. V Krakow was possible due to the reconstruction of its organizational structures, cooperation with other security authorities and, above all, exploration of spy affairs.

The work was divided into four thematically and logically related chapters. The first of them *The General District / Corps District Command No. V in Krakow 1918–1939* consists of two subsections that recreate the process of shaping new organizational structures of state security during the interwar period, in particular the genesis and development of mentioned in title Office. It was made an attempt of establish and historical reconstruction of organization of the General District Command No. V in Krakow (since 1921, Corps District Command), its structure, military and administrative organization, as well as changes that took place in the following years of the interwar period. An important part of this chapter was the analysis of the historical, socio-political and economic (i.e. industry) context, covering the areas of GDC /

CDC V, taking into account the territorial changes of the district, the intensity of which took place especially in the early period of the Second Polish Republic. It indicates also the connection between the tasks of the district command and the situation at the borders, recreates the detailed outline of the geographical framework of the district and the difficulties associated with its demarcation. Chapter also takes into account various concepts of territorial divisions and their impact on the functioning of the GDC / CDC V. In this part of dissertation, an important aspect proved to be the relationship of territorial borders with the ethnic division of society and the industrial potential. In addition to the detailed description of ethnic diversity and the industrial map of the district - an important element of the modernization of the Polish military forces or the revival of the national economy - it was described the strongest and weakest links in the development of these areas, which were important because they played an important role as a center of the Polish state's strength and also the area of activity counterintelligence authorities. Ethnic and economic factors constituted the key background for the development and condition of the district, they also were important for the analysis contained in the following parts of the work.

The second chapter of the work *The organization of the counterintelligence service in the area of GDC / CDC No. V 1918-1939*, discussed the formation of the counterintelligence apparatus in three basic stages that set up the structure of this chapter. An important complement to this part of the work were the numerous biographies of workers employed in institutions of changing structures, including the Independent Information Office, recreated primarily thanks to the Personal Files Folders at the Military Historical Bureau of the Central Military Archive and the Institute of National Remembrance. This chapter was critically assessed the strategy of non-uniform reconstruction at the field level of similar units, and discussed the consequences of such actions in terms of efficiency and durability. An important element of this part of the dissertation was reflection on the reasons for failures of conducted counterintelligence activities, for this purpose psychological (morale and condition of the human factor), personnel, financial and other shortcomings were presented, which together influenced the state and effectiveness of conducted activities.

The next two chapters of the work concern the analysis of key areas of activity of the Independent Information Office, which are derived from the applicable organizational instructions and work guidelines. Chapter three *Activities in the field of counterintelligence* discussed the institution's tasks undertaken to combat the most active intelligence in the area of CDC V Krakow, i.e. German, Soviet and Czech. The structure of this part of dissertation was created of detailed analyzes of proceedings in the context of exploring communist and

espionage activities. The chapter was enriched with statistical data, and where possible, specific methods of operation, the analysis of which has allowed the assessment of factors conditioning the efficiency of military counterintelligence and synthesis of the effectiveness of Polish services in combating espionage.

The last, fourth chapter *Activity in the national (nation-political) field* was devoted to activities undertaken by the Independent Information Office related to the analysis of the national status of the army or units in CD V and observation of the non-Polish soldiers behavior. The structure of this chapter reflects the scale of activity of particular minorities in the field of activity which was recognized by the authorities of the Second Republic as anti-state. A specific feature of this chapter was that the national activity of the Independent Information Office was in fact of a reporting nature, so it differed from the typical features of this institution, which were discussed in earlier parts of the work. Undoubtedly, however, the aspects included in this chapter were an important complement to the analysis of counterintelligence activities and allowed the final balance of the institution's activity in the interwar period.

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