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# Z tymi co zostali...

HARCERSKIE RELACJE WARSZAWA – LONDYN (1945–1990)

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## Summary

### **With those who stayed... Scouts' relations Warsaw – London (1945–1990)**

Polish scouting has already played educational functions in Polish society for over a hundred years. Its influence is not confined to the limits of the state, but it is almost everywhere where there are Poles. Continuing with its unchanging ideas, Polish scouting was able to customize the implemented program, forms and methods of work and organizational structure to changing historical circumstances and civilizational challenges. Complicated history of scout groups and organizations in Poland and abroad after World War II have not yet been synthesised, although the research undertaken so far – including the period of communist totalitarianism in Poland – have already successfully filled a number of “white spots”.

After 2005, I have concentrated my research interests primarily in examining the history of groups and organizations of Polish Scouting existing since 1989, outside the eastern border of the Polish Republic. Still, it was also important to show the anti-communist and anti-Soviet activities of youth organizations in Central and Eastern Europe in the years 1944–1953 in a comparative depiction. As an important element of my current scientific activity I also consider biographical research, related to the findings on so-called living witnesses of history (outstanding individuals and entire communities) in the formation of patriotic attitudes of young people involved in scouting activities in the post-war Poland. Also attempt to adumbrate the place of scouting

in Poland against extracurricular youth activity after 1989 shows the examined issue from a particular perspective.

The summary of my several years of research is the recently published monograph, entitled. "From perestroika to the Card of the Pole. The Environment and Polish scouting organizations in the Soviet Union and after its collapse" (Warsaw 2014) [„Od pieriestrojki do Karty Polaka. Środowiska i organizacje polskiego harcerstwa na terenie ZSRR i po jego rozpadzie" (Warszawa 2014)]. One of the main research demands contained in this work was the hope expressed by me (not without proper discernment), that this monograph will be an incentive for further research on the history of scouting abroad. And that the arrangements given there will partially help in the preparation of the future synthesis of that history. Except that, from my point of view to the foreground protruded the research on post-war period, ie. from the establishment of the post-Yalta balance of power in Europe and in the world in 1945 to the collapse of the USSR. Writing directly, despite the good understanding of researchers in the essential facts (see *Bibliography*) lack of unitary work of a scientific nature on the post-war history of the Polish Scouting Association (abroad) [Związek Harcerstwa Polskiego poza granicami Kraju / ZHPpgK] is still surprising. This therefore raises the reasonable question: What has stood on the way for such work to arise since 1990? Certainly, as usual, a number of diverse factors, but above all, a huge area of research beyond the possibilities of a single author (and if it is, as a life's work). So far, therefore it seems reasonable to add some elements to the issue systematically.

For example, in November 2008 I presented in Lublin a lecture entitled "«The Polish Scouting Association (abroad)» as a source of inspiration for enemies of Poland, in the years 1945–1957" [„«Emigracyjny ZHP» jako inspiracyjny ośrodek wrogich elementów w Polsce, w latach 1945–1957"], at the international scientific conference "Secret weapon or the victims of the Cold War? Political emigration from Central and Eastern Europe" [„Tajny oręż, czy ofiary zimnej

wojny? Emigracje polityczne z Europy Środkowej i Wschodniej”], the co-organizers were: the Institute of National Remembrance [IPN] (District in Lublin), the Institute of Political Studies of PAS (Polish Academy of Sciences) [ISP PAN], the German Historical Institute [NIH], Warsaw, the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes (Prague), the Nation’s Memory Institute (Bratislava) and the Federal Foundation for the reappraisal of the SED Dictatorship (Berlin). In effect, this lecture was published in the post-conference publication entitled „Secret weapon or the victims of the Cold War? Political emigration from Central and Eastern Europe” (Lublin 2010) [„Tajny oze, czy ofiary zimnej wojny? Emigracje polityczne z Europy Środkowej i Wschodniej” (Lublin 2010)], edited by Sławomir Łukasiewicz. In the study I tried to demonstrate, inter alia, that the very existence of the post-war structures of the Polish Scouting Association (abroad) [ZHPpgK] was unbearable for the communists in Poland. Not only was this organization accused of an inspiring role, but was numerously „demonstrated” that it plotted, pulled into the conspiracy, transmitted appropriate funds for this purpose, trained spies and constituted a major obstacle not only in the acquisition of scouting in Poland, but also in peaceful existence and development of young generation in People’s Poland. In the first place, on the backdrop of activity reactivated in December 1944 by the Polish Committee of National Liberation [Polski Komitet Wyzwolenia Narodowego / PKWN] the Polish Scouting and Guiding Association [ZHP] in Poland, I tried to show the situation of conspiratorial Polish scouting organizations, ideologically and organizationally linked with the Polish government in London and the dilemmas and choices of several leading scoutmasters, related to the situation in which Poland was found after World War II. In view of the continuing post-war conspiratorial activities of the structures of Polish Scouting (codename: „Polish Regiments”) [Harcerstwo Polskie (tzw. Hufce Polskie) / HP], derived from the Catholic-national trend in the pre-war Polish Scouting and Guiding Association [ZHP] and an organization separate from the war Grey Ranks [Szare Szeregi], it was

reasonable to show the repression of the system against its leadership in the years 1945–1947 (the fact that the former head of Polish Scouting [HP], scoutmaster Witold Sawicki, the lecturer of law on the Catholic University of Lublin was arrested yet again in May 1952). Not without significance was also presenting the contemporary relationship between the national authorities of the Polish Scouting and Guiding Association [ZHP] and representatives of international scouting, to the existence of „competitive” structures of Polish scouting in exile. What is interesting, when in 1951 the Communists completed their formal process of liquidation of the Polish Scouting and Guiding Association [ZHP] in Poland (from that moment the structure of the Polish Scouting Association (abroad) [ZHPpgK] became the only legal structure that preserved the continuity of the pre-war history of the organization and its legal basis) Polish security organs [Ministerstwo Bezpieczeństwa Publicznego / MBP] still showed operationally, inter alia, by attempts to enter the spy network into the ranks of the Polish Scouting Association (abroad) [ZHPpgK] or to „search” the inspirational role among the representatives of the so-called second conspiracy scout, and more. Therefore, it is not surprising that, given the past experience, short contacts between the representatives of the reborn after October ‘56 the Polish Scouting and Guiding Association [ZHP] with the authorities of the Polish Scouting Association (abroad) [ZHPpgK] had an confidential and informal character.

Together with the recalled elaboration this book includes with its range much bigger time interval. Brought in its deliberations until 1990 it closes some important and distinct stage of history. Distributed in the content presented in the studies and materials (together with a presentation of the Conference of Lublin) a significant slice of history the Polish Scouting Association (abroad) [ZHPpgK], what was the relationship of the exile government structure of the national scouting on the background of the history of post-war Poland. It does not finish the research on this issue and it is rather a starting point for further research.

Over than an age-old Polish scouting history deserves a scientific reflection. From the perspective of the results obtained by the research conducted so far, it is clear that the scouting environment and organizations in Poland and abroad have played an essential role not only among young people embraced by the totalitarian communist after World War II, but also in the whole society by outstanding individuals deriving from them.