

Combatant Organizations of the Participants of the Greater Poland Uprising in the Years 1921-1949

The first combatant organizations were organized on former Prussian annexed Polish territory, in 1921. Although, it was mainly grassroots activity of their members for keeping up relations established during their military service, nevertheless on the order side, that activity was controlled by order of authorities, mainly military ones, to aim at preservation the fighting readiness of reservists.

And right from the start there aroused a conflict connected with union membership – some associations were to gather only the former insurgents, while the other ones the combatants from the Wielkopolska Army, too.

Besides, it's worth to add that particular associations had created large unions. There originated two main sets of combatant activity in the Great Poland, Pommerania and Upper Silesia provinces – the legal (pro-government) and the oppositional one. It became particularly essentially after May, 1926, when there came through new authorities. And just in that period considerably relented activities of the most numerous Associations of Societies of Insurgents and Soldiers.

The government offered the insurgent combatants to become members of country-wide Association of Former Participants of National Uprising, headquartered in Warsaw. But they were soon subordinated to the Office of Regained Territories and became the Associations of Veterans of 1914-1919 National Uprising of the Republic of Poland. Finally, in 1938 the trends towards consolidation the 1918-1919 Wielkopolska Uprising combat movement accomplished establishment the Association of Wielkopolska Insurgents, that was recreated after the II World War, in 1946. And finally, three years later it was included into the country-wide Association of Fighters for Liberty and Democracy.

The dissertation not only elaborates organic structures of the combat organizations, but it treats of a subject of their main formalities, such as: maintenance of fighting readiness their members, further – commemoration of the 1918-1919 Uprising traditions, and cultural and educational activities. In the final chapter there were described organizations' ensignes – banners, next membership and commemorative badges and organizational uniforms.