

SUMMARY OF DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

Polish Military Purchase Mission in Paris 1919-1921

The following dissertation presents the circumstances of creation and activity of Polish Military Purchase Mission in Paris and the role that this institution played in the process of expanding and development of Polish Army. It characterizes the political and economic aspects of the Mission and the organization of the complex process of transporting purchased goods-war materials from the countries of Western Europe to Poland.

Chronologically, the basic framework of following dissertation covers the time period 1919-1921, which includes the period from the preparation and sending the Mission to Paris in March 1919 until the completion of the Mission as an independent foreign mission and incorporating it in April 1921 into the Polish Military Mission in Paris. From that moment, the Mission's previous tasks were carried out by the Purchasing Office of the Polish Military Mission in Paris.

The basic objectives of the following study are: characterization of the internal organization of the Mission, discussing the changes that the Mission has undergone with the development of its activities, showing the full role that it played in the process of creating and arming the Polish Army, and also showing the sacrificial and patriotic service of Polish soldiers and officials of the Mission who, although they did not fight on the front, contributed significantly to the military victory in the war with Bolshevik Russia.

The first chapter of the presented study has an introductory character. Its purpose is to present the course of formation, development and demobilization of the Polish Army in the years 1918-1921 and characterization of general conditions in which this process took place, as well as an indication of what kind of equipment and weaponry the Polish Army had at that time.

The second chapter deals with the reasons for the creation of the Polish Military Purchase Mission in Paris, its tasks and internal structure. It presents the process of preparations made during the creation of the Mission, describes the places where the Mission operated on territory of Paris and the internal organizational structure of the Mission, which changed with the expansion of activities in the field of obtaining and receiving war goods. In addition, general costs related to the maintenance of the Polish Military Purchase Mission by the Polish state in 1919-1921 were presented. Special attention must be paid to the detailed arrangements of staff composition of sections and departments of the Mission which were presented as part of discussing the changes that took place in its organizational structure.

The next chapter is devoted to the activities of the Mission from March 1919 to the end of December 1919. It shows initial organization structure of the Mission, how it operated in above mentioned period of time and the program of planned purchases of war materials. This chapter also discusses the reasons and circumstances of the change of the Mission leader which took place in November 1919.

The fourth chapter describes how shipment of purchased war materials for the Polish Army was organized in 1919. It discusses how the materials were reclaimed from private entities and American and French demobilization military depots, organization and methods of forming and sending trains to Poland and difficulties that occurred during organization of rail transport through territories of other countries. The chapter also contains detailed information about the amount and type of the war equipment delivered to Poland by the end of 1919, as well as information on the organization of transport by sea.

The fifth chapter of the dissertation describes activities of the Mission during the period from January 1920 to April 1921. It presents the purchase program for the Mission, which the Ministry of War Affairs planned to implement in 1920. The chapter also describes in detail the activities of the Mission delegations such as branches in London, Thessaloniki and New York and it also discusses the purchase of weapons, ammunition, equipment, aviation materials, automotive materials and horses.

The organization and shipment of transports with war materials in years 1920-1921 has been presented in detail in the sixth chapter of this study. It discusses the difficulties and obstacles that existed in the organization of rail transport of the war goods, which intensified during the decisive phase of the war with the Bolsheviks. The difficulties caused by intensive activity of communist agitators in Europe and unfavorable attitude of Germany and Czechoslovakia towards Poland caused that in July 1920 the Mission had to stop shipping the war materials by rail and concentrate on sending them only by sea. The chapter also contains detailed information about the amount and type of the war equipment delivered to Poland in 1920.

As a result of the end of active warfare on the Polish-Bolshevik front, the Minister of War Affairs commenced the Mission staff reduction phase, and in April 1921 the Mission was incorporated into the organizational structure of the Polish Military Mission in France. The eighth chapter of this study is devoted to these events and to the activities of the Audit Committee which audited the Polish Military Purchase Mission in early 1921.

The last eighth chapter presents detailed information on the volume of all war material supplies obtained by the Polish Military Purchase Mission in Paris in 1919-1921, and describes in detail the role played by the Mission in the process of forming, expanding and supplying the Polish

army. The chapter also summarizes the period of over two years of the Polish Military Purchase Mission in Paris.

The main source of the following study was primarily archival sources located in the Central Military Archive and the Archive of New Files in Warsaw, as well archival documents provided by Józef Piłsudski Institute of America, which are available online.