

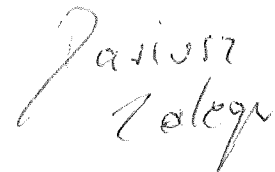
SUMMARY

Defenders of the Republic. Upper Silesian volunteers in the Spanish Civil War

More than 130 enlistees from Polish and German Upper Silesia fought along the Republicans in the Spanish Civil War. For the most part they joined ranks with the International Brigades, but also with anarchist detachments. In his work, the author showcases their social standing (labourers predominantly), their involvement with left-wing movements and military experience. The study details transfer routes of the Silesians to Spain and their participation in combat, at the same time attempting to hint at their motives. The author presents a broad socio-historical background to the engagements of Upper Silesian volunteers and chronicles the emergence of the Upper Silesian proletariat and the ways it was impacted by national and religious disputes, while also stressing the significance of social radicalism for the history of the region. The fates of those volunteers are after all displays of such radicalism.

Keywords: communism, workers, civil war in Spain, Upper Silesia

Dariusz Zalega

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dariusz Zalega". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.