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## **ACTIVITY OF SCHOOLS AND EDUCATIONAL COURSES FOR SOLDIERS OF THE UKRAINIAN GALICIAN ARMY INTERNED IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AS A FORM OF THEIR SOCIALIZATION (1919-1920)**

This article analyzes the activity of schools and educational courses in the camp for interned Ukrainian Galician Army combatants in Německé Jablonné (Czechoslovakia) in 1919-1920. One of their main tasks was elimination of illiteracy among soldiers. Soldiers who had a sufficient educational background (complete elementary education or incomplete secondary education) attended special courses covering cooperation, milk production, agriculture, etc. Besides, interned soldiers could learn the trade of shoemakers, tailors, carpenters, locksmiths, bookbinders, and electricians; there were also veterinarian and medical studies. Petty officers had an opportunity to finish their school education and prepare to enter higher educational institutions in Czechoslovakia.

Due to the above activity, interned Ukrainian soldiers could find a job connected with their professional experience within Czechoslovakia, while university graduates worked as engineers, teachers, doctors, etc. The activity of camp educational courses resulted in a significant drop in illiteracy rates among interned soldiers of the Ukrainian Galician Army. That phenomenon helped them be prepared for civil status. The educational initiative in camps provided Ukrainian soldiers with great opportunities for studying abroad according to their civil qualifications.

**Key words:** school; educational courses; learning; interned soldiers; camp; Ukrainian Galician Army.

### **Introduction**

The relevance of this research centers on the study's role in absorbing the experience of the general-education and professional training of interned Ukrainian soldiers in the camps of Czechoslovakia during the post-imperial modernization of this country (1919-1920). The "educational formula" offered for soldiers in the camps played a significant role in their socialization and better adaptation to the condition of life among titular ethnic groups (Czechs and Slovaks). Due to the relatively favorable conditions of stay in Czechoslovakia and the readiness of the country's government to provide humanitarian help to Slavic immigrants within the "Rus campaign", some former soldiers received an opportunity to obtain university-level education in Czech higher education institutions.

The first scholarly studies of this topic date back to 1942 when Symon Narizhnyi published his book "Ukrainian Emigration" which remains vitally important today for scientific research of camps and related issues. In this work, S. Narizhnyi analyzes various aspects of the cultural and educational activity of the Ukrainian soldiers interned in camps of Czechoslovakia. At the same time, the author did not aim to conduct a detailed analysis of educational centers in Německé Jablonné (*Наріжний С., 1942*). The second part of Narizhnyi's monograph significantly expan-

ded the issue of certain aspects of interned soldiers' daily life (*Наріжний С., 1999*). However, since the author did not finish working on the book's manuscript, this work provides only fractured evidence and does not offer a full picture of the problem discussed.

The late 1990s witnessed an increasing scholarly attention to studying various aspects of Ukrainian soldiers' daily life in camps. During that period, a number of newly published works paid attention to peculiarities of cultural and educational work in camps of the Ukrainian Galician Army (UGA) in Czechoslovakia (*Павленко, 1999; Срібняк, 2000*). At the same time, the latter problem was not thoroughly and fully discussed in those works. Consequently, it is important to study theatrical and artistic life of soldiers in camps, drawing on archival materials and those of the camps' press. Therefore, the aim of this article is to reconstruct artistic activity of UGA soldiers in the Josefov camp, as well as to study the extent to which camp performances influenced soldier's morale.

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Since June 1919, the Czech authorities started placing several subunits of the Ukrainian Galician Army (UGA) in a camp situated in Německé Jablonné (Southern Czechia). Those subunits of the UGA had been isolated from their

main forces a month before and, pushed by the Polish armed forces, stepped back to Carpathian Ruthenia. The government of Czechoslovakia maintained a tolerant attitude towards all migrants of Slavic origin, particularly towards the Ukrainians. It was caused by the government's obvious interest in the presence of radical anti-Polish forces of its territory in 1919 as it would be possible to use them in case of an armed conflict with Poland.

As of early August 1919, the total number of combatants interned in Německé Jablonné reached nearly 4700 individuals, including 700 sub-officers (ЦДАВО України, ф. 3520, оп. 1, спр. 9, арк.161; спр. 1, арк.1; Терлецький, 1958). The average age of interned soldiers ranged from 18 to 38. The vast majority of them originated from different regions of Galicia (as well as mountainous areas of Podilia, Beskids, and Hutsulshchyna) and were engaged in agricultural activities before the war. As a result, a large portion of interned combatants (1200-1800 privates and sergeants) were fully illiterate (ЦДАВО України, ф. 3520, оп. 2, спр. 1, арк.3; спр. 468, арк.5; оп. 1, спр. 9, арк.161).

The military defeat of the Ukrainian Galician Army from the Polish armed forces as well as the very fact of internment in Německé Jablonné had a negative impact on the morale of Ukrainian soldiers. That period saw a growing number of conflicts between interned combatants as well as internal differentiation and even some cases of desertion from the camp. Introduction of quarantine in the camp, which was caused by detection of epidemic typhus among several soldiers, further complicated the living conditions of interned combatants (ЦДАВО України, ф. 3520, оп. 2, спр. 468, арк.20).

Those negative trends were eliminated due to the arrival of Colonel A. Varyvoda and a group of sub-officers, who were commissioned by the government of the West Ukrainian People's Republic. They managed to restore military order in the camp, and the sub-units of the UGA were merged into the "Ukrainian brigade in Německé Jablonné". The command of the brigade aimed to prepare the soldiers to a continuing military fight for the sovereignty of Ukraine in the future. Further, another urgent problem at the time was the organization of cultural and education work among the interned soldiers. That task was successfully accomplished due to the activity of cultural and educational circles in the camp in Německé Jablonné, which founded a number of artistic and educational clubs (theaters, choruses, courses, schools etc.).

The main task of the "Educative Circle" was the destruction of illiteracy in the Deutsch Gabl camp. For that purpose, in July 1919 Colonel Varyvoda formed five "brigade's courses" for illiterate representatives (ЦДАВО України, ф. 3520, оп. 1, спр. 9, арк. 161-162). Riflemen from all divisions of the brigade could participate in those courses. The educational work in the camp got substantially more complicated due to the lack of suitable buildings and necessary textbooks and, moreover, because of riflemen's total nonchalance about learning. There was also a problem of first sergeants' reluctance to work with riflemen as teachers. Nevertheless, soon the work with the interned representatives became less difficult thanks to sending 500 primers by the Ukrainian Cultural Council, which were very quickly bought by the students (ЦДАВО України, ф. 3520, оп. 2, спр. 468, арк.3-4; оп. 1, спр. 9, арк.162).

Besides, barracks weren't suitable for conducting lessons for lack of benches and in-house educational supplies. The report of Lieutenant Duchymynskyi tells about the organization of cultural and educational work in the

camp when patient students sat on the grass and learnt how to write on their knees and lucky students leaned on windows and walls (ЦДАВО України, ф. 3520, оп. 1, спр. 9, арк.162-163). After a while students made chairs and tables of makeshift materials by themselves and, furthermore, they found chalks and produced copybooks. Classes of those courses were conducted even in winter, which complicated the organization of training. Barracks weren't properly heated so students had to study, wearing gloves and running in the premises from time to time.

On the 1st of August 1919, 278 representatives were entered in a list of students of 5 first degree courses for illiterate people. The lessons lasted six days per week except Sundays from 8 till 12 a.m. and there was a variety of different disciplines, for example Reading, Arithmetic, Ukrainian language, Geography and History of Ukraine (ЦДАВО України, ф. 3520, оп. 1, спр. 9, арк.170-171; оп. 2, спр. 468, арк.5). On the 30<sup>th</sup> October 1919, 178 pupils successfully completed the courses. Almost all post-graduates (172) entered the second degree courses. What is more, there functioned a charter school which was founded thanks to the Ukrainian Military and Sanitary Mission. Illiterate UGA riflemen could study at that school and there were also given regular lessons of History of Ukraine, Sanitary, Medicine and different political events were discussed.

The second degree courses had 214 members and were set up for those who completed at least four classes of national school. The courses were delivered from the 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> March 1920 and offered 13 disciplines such as World History, the Basics of Irrigation Farming, Religious, Social Sciences and some classes where they widely discussed writings by Taras Shevchenko. The courses were successfully completed by 108 members and all of them were counted in the third degree courses (ЦДАВО України, ф. 3520, оп. 1, спр. 9, арк.169; оп. 2, спр. 1, арк.4). During the period from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> July 1920, those courses were attended by 135 riflemen and only 91 representatives passed the exams.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> September 1919, Major Dyakov and members of the "Educational Circle" founded the Riflemen's University (another name is the "National Educational Courses") (ЦДАВО України, ф. 3520, оп. 2, спр. 468, арк.6). That foundation was connected with aspiration to confirm patriotic feelings in students. The course was conducted by teachers for all riflemen and thanks to those studies they could broaden their minds, especially in respect of political problems, and inform about the military situation of the Ukrainian army (ЦДАВО України, ф. 3520, оп. 1, спр. 9, арк. 171; оп. 2, спр. 1, арк.4). Mental education was considered important for forming a new army and therefore on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 1919 a special order of the Ukrainian Brigade confirmed the mandatory attendance of the course by riflemen as part of military occupation. The studies at the University lasted till the 1<sup>st</sup> May 1920, which helped to unite riflemen and first sergeants who taught them. It is mentioned in the camp's magazine that the classes were delivered until the autumn of 1920 three times a week from 4 till 5 p.m. in the theatre and were attended by 250 riflemen.

At the same time commanders of Capitan Voytechko's separate subdivision of the brigade organized "hundreds" of courses for illiterate representatives. The most active educational work was delivered in the 2<sup>nd</sup> infantry regiment of the brigade: 585 lectures were given to 43 first sergeants (ЦДАВО України, ф. 3520, оп. 2, спр. 468, арк.9). from the 9<sup>th</sup> November 1919 to the 14<sup>th</sup> May 1920. Unfortunately,

there were not many lectures delivered in the 41<sup>st</sup> infantry regiment, furthermore, the activity of Voytechko wasn't supported by barrack commandants who didn't help in the educational work and, what is more, deported some riflemen with work groups all over Czechoslovakia (ЦДАВО України, ф. 3520, оп. 1, спр. 9, арк.161-162).

The soldiers' studies were supplemented with the "highest educational course" that consisted of two sections (A and B) for riflemen and first sergeants, which was delivered from the 27<sup>th</sup> December 1919 to April 1920 by Capitan Yarema. The main requisition for those who wanted to join that course was completion of at least four classes of national school. 133 students (aged 18-35) attended 435 lectures of the course. The average outlay for its organization such as central heating, illumination of barracks and books' purchase reached 22,884 Czechoslovak crowns. The lessons took place in a local school every day for 5-6 hours and the support of Director Ruzhichko enabled the teachers to use all necessary equipment. The course program was written similarly to that of national universities where such subjects as Ukrainian language and literature, Arithmetic, Geometry, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, History, Geography, Hygiene, Basics of Household Economy and Politics were studied. Much attention was also devoted to discipline (ЦДАВО України, ф. 3520, оп. 2, спр. 468, арк.10).

Nevertheless, Capitan Yarema considered that course as the first successful attempt to combine the educational work with patriotic upbringing of the interned riflemen. The review of the cultural and educational work "Ukraine in Camp" tells about a 4-month hard work that brought good results. On the 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> April 1920 there were exams held, 86 students achieving different results, for example 9 got an "excellent" mark, 19 - "very good", 35 - "good" and 23 - "satisfactorily". The majority of students didn't miss lectures and, furthermore, the interest to disciplines and studies was constant (ЦДАВО України, ф. 3520, оп. 2, спр. 468, арк.10). On the 30<sup>th</sup> April 1920 there was a ceremony of awarding certificates to the students. Since the 14<sup>th</sup> January 1920 the activity of Lieutenant Teslyuk resulted in 27 lectures for riflemen mostly about local history, attended by 6960 participants. Implementation of the above became possible only due to the support of a state industrial school in Reichenberg which administration lent their slides (ЦДАВО України, ф. 3520, оп. 2, спр. 468, арк.9).

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 1920 the brigade first degree courses for illiterate people were introduced. That year 60 riflemen joined the courses and there were 160 students who studied at the second degree courses, each of the courses lasting 6 months. The third degree courses were delivered to the riflemen and first sergeants who attendee four classes of national schools (ЦДАВО України, ф. 3520, оп. 1, спр. 9, арк.162-163). The total number of the students who successfully passed exams reached 1147 riflemen and first sergeants, for instance 860 people at the first degree courses, 287 representatives at the second degree courses and 240 students at the third degree courses. 200 people learned how to read, write and count at the charter courses. Furthermore, post-graduates of the third degree courses were awarded special certificates (ЦДАВО України, ф. 3520, оп. 2, спр. 468, арк.6).

Consequently, from August 1919 till April 1920 there were 31 courses held for illiterate representatives of all degrees, which yielded a lot of successful results. Nevertheless, it was impossible to eliminate illiteracy because many riflemen were sent to compulsory works. Capitan Yarema mentioned that in June 1920 there had remained

340 illiterate people (ЦДАВО України, ф. 3520, оп. 2, спр. 468, арк.5). Moreover, there were such courses as high education, stenography, real-gymnastic, economic, commercial, medical and other organized in the camp. In the Yablonne camp the courses of French, English, Italian and Czech languages were set up, but, unfortunately, for lack of students most of them were closed. The French course was the most popular, attended by 38 representatives led by Lieutenant Knirsh (ЦДАВО України, ф. 3520, оп. 2, спр. 468, арк.12). Besides, a Ukrainian language course was organized for those who didn't know it quite well. Moreover, special military first sergeant training was widespread in the camp (ЦДАВО України, ф. 3520, оп. 1, спр. 9, арк.164).

Among the interned soldiers there were many gymnasium students who had not finished their studies. With that in view, Major Matseyovych organized four graduate courses (Наріжний, 1942: 56-57). The first course was delivered from the 13<sup>th</sup> of September to the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 1919 by Major Matseyovych, Capitans Petykevych and Wan, Lieutenant Novoselsky, Cornet Yatsyshyn and officer-cadet Terletsky. 42 students passed their final exams, headed by a representative of the UNR Secretariat of Education Professor Demchuk. The second course started on the 15<sup>th</sup> March 1920 and was delivered by Capitans Malecki and Jarema, Lieutenant-Engineer Chybatyi and others. From May 25 to 29 there were final exams held with a spokesman of the Ministry of Education of Czechoslovakia Mr. Folpreht. 33 people were granted their certificates (ЦДАВО України, ф. 3520, оп. 2, спр. 468, арк.11-12).

On the whole, 128 students successfully passed the exams and all of them had a possibility to continue studying at Czechoslovakian higher educational institutions. Even in 1920 at least 80 people, especially first sergeants, lived in Prague while on constant study leave, where they spent the time on "professional studies at a university, polytechnic institute or academy" (Залеський, 1976: 49). A seminary course for 43 students lasted from the 15<sup>th</sup> August to the 12<sup>th</sup> December 1920 and was delivered by the "Vzaemna Pomich" organization of national school teachers (ЦДАВО України, ф. 3520, оп. 2, спр. 468, арк.12). The subjects taught were the basics of botany, pedagogy, mathematics, physics, geometry, chemistry, German and Czech languages, painting and singing. 25 students attended that course, 15 out of the number having passed the exam and got their certificates (ЦДАВО України, ф. 3520, оп. 1, спр. 9, арк.170).

Furthermore, it is necessary to emphasize the importance of an agricultural course which was delivered from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1920, headed by the military officer Banach. 90 students attended 160 lectures covering such subjects as gardening, floriculture, agriculture, cooperation, a practical household method, economical geography and other. A written exam was conducted by Officer Banach, Lieutenant Prohursky and Senior Foreman Kyshakevych. On the 20<sup>th</sup> April 1920, 90 attendees got special attestations. Banach invoked the alumni of the course to spread their knowledge and experience among farmers and peasants (ЦДАВО України, ф. 3520, оп. 2, спр. 468, арк.11).

12 post-graduate students were sent for traineeship to a milk production cooperative and a school in Frilyand in Czechoslovakia. The second course started on the 8<sup>th</sup> May 1920, with 119 students attending, and finished on the 15<sup>th</sup> August (Терлецький, 1958). Lieutenant Duchynsky organized a department of vegetable garden workers who farmed unoccupied lands, transferring the

harvest to the camp food section. Soon agricultural experience was spread all over the camp. As a result, soldiers from every department began to cultivate land near their own barracks (ЦДАВО України, ф. 3520, оп. 1, спр. 9, арк.167).

The organization of commercial and cooperative courses played a very important role in the activity of the "Educational Circle". For instance, from the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1920 to the 30<sup>th</sup> June 1921 an academic and mercantile course was delivered for 82 students and 39 of the latter successfully completed it. During the first semester of 1921 riflemen attended a course of mercantile cooperation. The accounting courses in Deutsch Gabl were organized by Lieutenant Barysh and delivered every day for 2 hours, except of Sundays and holidays (ЦДАВО України, ф. 3520, оп. 2, спр. 468, арк.11). Different technical courses were introduced primarily for first sergeants and riflemen, for example, shoemaking, sartorial, joinery, electrical engineering and cover-making training. Furthermore, Captains Kmet and Chabak headed a locksmith school, veterinary and medical courses. They were focused on the basics of hygiene and remedies for treatment (Наріжний, 1942: 57). In 1920 a postal and telegraph course was set up by Lieutenant Madlyak and Cornet Lys.

Finally, in January 1920 "Dragomanov's Circle" was founded for uniting gymnasium's youth for joint self-education work. Its members prepared summaries which were later read and discussed during meetings. A "Lawyer's Circle" was set up in April 1920, which was joined by 25 first sergeants. The main aim of the circle was represented in 11 subsections of a manual which was approved by the brigade headquarters on the 29<sup>th</sup> April 1920. The second paragraph set forth its purpose as consolidation of camp lawyers and encouragement to spend their spare time for completing their studies. The circle was divided into three sections such as Roman (law and historical), judicial (civil) and administrative (political). The effective and regular activity of the circle led to an increase in the number of the members to 77 participants and most of them got the opportunity to enter universities for studying at Faculties of Law (ЦДАВО України, ф. 3520, оп. 2, спр. 468, арк.12).

### Conclusion

The camp of interned Ukrainian Galician Army soldiers in Německé Jablonné became an important center for unification of Galician people as well as intensive cultural and educational activities in Czechoslovakia. To fully counter illiteracy among soldiers, the camp witnessed the establishment of various primary education courses. Moreover, Německé Jablonné was home to a great number of general education courses as well as cooperative, economic and trade courses. There was also a school which provided several stages of education and offered training in various scientific fields.

Within the cultural and educational activities among the interned soldiers, a considerable attention was paid to the spread of historical knowledge, both in universities and in primary and secondary schools. Simultaneously, those activities encompassed gathering materials, documents, recollections, and memoirs, which was highly significant for next generations of history scholars.

The activities of the camp educational courses allowed to almost fully eliminate illiteracy among the interned UGA soldiers. It helped the soldiers in their transition to civil life. The educational activity which was introduced in camps laid a foundation for further studies of civil professions, which Ukrainian soldiers continued abroad.

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### **ДІЯЛЬНІСТЬ ШКІЛ ТА ОСВІТНІХ КУРСІВ ДЛЯ ІНТЕРНОВАНИХ ВОЯКІВ УКРАЇНСЬКОЇ ГАЛИЦЬКОЇ АРМІЇ В ЧЕХОСЛОВАЧЧИНІ ЯК ОДНА З ФОРМ ЇХ СОЦІАЛІЗАЦІЇ (1919-1920 рр.)**

У статті розглянуто особливості діяльності шкіл та освітніх курсів у таборі інтернованих військ Української Галицької Армії Німецьке Яблонне (Чехословаччина) у 1919-1920 рр. Актуальність теми даного дослідження полягає в тому, що дозволяє переосмислювати досвід загальноосвітньої та професійної підготовки інтернованих вояків-українців у таборах Чехословаччини в часи постімперської модернізації країни (1919-1920 рр.). Запропонована для таборян "освітня формула" значною мірою сприяла їх соціалізації та глибшому пристосуванню до умов життя серед титульних етносів (чехів і словаків). Завдяки порівняно сприятливим умовам перебування в ЧСР та готовності її уряду надавати гуманітарну допомогу слов'янам-емігрантам у рамках "руської акції", частина колишніх вояків отримала можливість набути вищу освіту в чеських вищих навчальних закладах. Табір став справжнім осередком єднання всіх галичан, перетворившись на центр інтенсивної культурно-просвітницької роботи в цій країні. З метою повної ліквідації неписьменності серед стрільцтва у таборі було засновано значну кількість курсів початкової освіти. Воякам з достатнім освітнім цензом (із закінченою початковою чи незакінченою середньою освітою) викладались спеціальні курси з кооперації, молочарства, сільського господарства та ін.

Крім того, тут діяла ціла низка загальноосвітніх, кооперативних, господарських, торговельних курсів, а також школи кількох ступенів, на яких слухачі здобували знання з різних ділянок науки. Також у таборі можна було набути відповідний фах у шевській, кравецькій, столярській, слюсарській, палітурній, електротехнічній майстернях; діяли ветеринарні й лікарські курси; старшини мали можливість завершити середню освіту та підготуватись до вступу у вищі навчальні заклади Чехословаччини.

Значна увага в культурно-просвітницькій роботі з інтернованими приділялась поширенню серед вояцтва історичних знань як на рівні стрілецьких університетів, так і початкових та середніх шкіл. Одночасно ця робота включала в себе й збирання матеріалів, документів, спогадів, мемуарів - що мало велике значення для наступних поколінь істориків. Діяльність таборових освітніх курсів дозволила майже повністю ліквідувати неписьменність серед інтернованого вояцтва УГА та в значній мірі підготувати його до переходу на цивільний стан. Освітня робота, започаткована у таборах, заклала міцне підґрунтя для продовження навчання українського вояцтва вже за цивільними фахами за кордоном.

*Ключові слова:* школа; освітні курси; навчання; інтерновані; табір Німецьке Яблонне; Українська Галицька Армія.

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