

## **The Greater Poland Division over the period 1775-1794**

### **Summary**

The crown troops in the reign of Stanisław August Poniatowski is the subject matter which seems to be less absorbing than wars waged by Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in XVII century or Duchy of Warsaw's army. The lack of military triumphs and eminent leaders had an influence on it. Moreover, it was the beginning of a stint in the crown troops for excellent officers such as Józef Poniatowski, Jan Henryk Dąbrowski, and Stanisław Fiszer. Low potential of military science, partitions, collaboration between some of the officers and regiment's heads and invading Russia overshadowed Stanisławian era over the period 1764-1788.

The author of the dissertation decided to undertake a study of The Greater Poland Division over the period 1775-1794 because of the lack of the holistic scholarships about it. This decision was motivated by his postgraduate studies at Jan Długosz University in Częstochowa. The Greater Poland Division was the nearest territorially. It was one of the four of military unions which were established under the provisions of Parliamentary Constitution in 1775. The most important duties of it were to protect west and north-west border of Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth from Kingdom of Prussia's lawless activities, provide inner order in Greater Poland and train subservient units. Timeline in the dissertation covers 1775-1794 years, the period from the formal institution of The Greater Poland Division by the decision of Delegation Parliament to Kościuszko Uprising, the beginning of which was deformation. which beginning was associated with the deformation.

The author completed scientific studies in archives and libraries in Poland as well as in Ukraine. He benefited from the matters found in Lviv, Warsaw, Crackow, Poznań, Kórnik and Wrocław. Searching for information helped him to answer a plenty of research questions. The fact that The Main Archive in Warsaw was burnt by the Germans on 4<sup>th</sup> September 1944 is the reason why not all the blanks in the disseration can be filled.

In this dissertation the author poses some research questions. He is interested in the Division, its full-time and staff squad. The other question is: who and why was a spearhead in this formation, who decided about the nominations of several officers, what linkage was between officers and royal court. The important problem here is the attempt to research the

proces of training recruits and the level of soldier's discipline. The problem of conducting the military intelligence on premises of Prussia is extremely interesting. The author also discusses the questions: how the Division adjusted to the army operations which were led in Great Sejm period and how was the cooperation between civil-military committees. Finally he decides to show the state of The Greater Poland Division under the government of Targowicz. One more interesting question is: could the Division stop the Prussian troops which marched into Poland in winter 1793 in any way. The author also tries to determine if the Division's soldiers were subjected to rebellious slogans in 1793-1794 years.

The following dissertation consists of an introduction, five chapters and the conclusion. The author presents the history of the Division chronologically, from its institution in 1775. Next chapters are about the functioning of the individual, border guards, military uniforms and armament. The author pays attention to the figures of commanders and more important officers such as: Jan Henryk Dąbrowski, Tadeusz Kościuszko and Antoni Madaliński.

Another issue in the dissertation is connected with the functioning of the garrisons in the cities. There are plenty of problems, e.g. cantonment and maintenance of the soldiers. What is more, military personnel performs tasks like keeping the peace in the cities, catching wrongdoers or gypsies who steal. The author analyses the group of gypsies. In the dissertation he mentions their illnesses like fevers or bone pains. Moreover, he describes the functioning of military hospitals in which there were the Division's soldiers.

In the last two chapters, the author focuses on the preparation of the Division for the war with Austria, and later with Russia. He discusses the participation of Greater Poland units in the combats in Ukraine and in the area of Warsaw.

In the last chapter, the author discusses the Prussian army who marched into Greater Poland in 1793 and the withdrawal of the Division into Lesser Poland. In the last subchapter, he presents the participation of the unit in preparing to Kościuszko Uprising and the participation of the soldiers in combats which finally resulted in deformation in May 1794.

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