

Officers-Cadets of the Polish Army in the German captivity

Polish Army Cadets in German captivity were characteristic group of Polish prisoners of war. It has included several important issues. The most important ones concern the unclear status of prisoner of war cadets and to concentrate in the first half of 1940 sizeable group in the camps situated on the north-western areas of the Third Reich in the province Emsland, i.e. in Oberlangen Fullen and Wesuwe. These two issues also had its interesting implications after the war. Not so much because the very fact of the existence problem of the status of cadets in German captivity at the beginning of the period and settle about two thousand group in Emsland camps seems to be interesting, what the postwar wide and long debate on this issue. Their participants were actually characters themselves, or cadets. The bulk of them in the discussion on the status advocated and tried to argue that they should be treated as so. coordinate officers. Stay the same in Oflags on an equal footing with the officers. On the other hand, in terms of focus and almost year-long stay in Emsland cadets, many promote opinions about the extermination even the nature of these camps. Although the majority of cadets in favor of the officers' status and theory camps "extermination" in the postwar debate around these issues encountered strong adversaries proclaimed their opinion. This dispute divided the act after the war veterans association Environment Cadet former Prisoners of War. The peculiarity of this group of Polish prisoners of war also proves that a strong commitment to cadets at various areas prisoner's of war activity. Analysis of the available source material leads to the conclusion that their domain was the work of cultural-educational and wider participation in the resistance movement in captivity, not only in Stalags and commandos of work but also in camps for officers.

The work tells the story of cadets of the Second Republic, from the military education system in the Polish Army cadets through participation in the Polish Campaign of 1939., Stay in German captivity, and ending on the business after the war, the Environment Cadet former Prisoners of War, uniting cadet-prisoners of the Wehrmacht. Particular emphasis is placed, however, on the period of captivity. Already born and raised in independent Poland belonged to the generation tragic, because war and slavery took away the best years of his life. The times in which they had to live cadet forced them instantly become adult men. Following the

attitude of cadets in 1939 during the war. And then six-year period prisoner by the Germans, without too much pathos can be to state that have passed the exam worst of his life. Taking part in the fighting in 1939. And then going through the POW camps of the Third Reich, they showed admirable mental resistance. A very big impact on these attitudes were trained in glasses and courses cadets.

On the concept of specificity cadets as a group of Polish prisoners of war in German captivity they have made many aspects of their lives and activities in the camps of the Wehrmacht. The most important was the status of prisoner of war. And although this problem is resolved quickly, as early as the first weeks of captivity after the war erupted extensive discussions on this subject, caused mainly by themselves. In this regard, essentially all the cadets were convinced of his officers' POW status. Feeling almost officers, considered as something natural be-treated in captivity "after officers" rather than the scheduled one group of "stalags prisoners". In an embodiment doubt as to the actual status of POW cadets to a large extent, paradoxically contributed Polish officers, indeed mainly attitude of some officers to "younger colleagues" who refused cadet privilege to be graded as a group of prisoners oflags, which is equal to the officers. Cadets did not seem to take note of treating them captive as "ordinary Mannschaft". Counting this state of affairs as degradation, many have tried after the war to command the officers' status in captivity, citing even the Geneva Convention. However, it is how they should be treated in captivity depended directly from the military legislation in the Second Republic, which did not give them any opportunities pass them as "equivalent officers."

Part of the cadets stay in camps for officers in the early months of captivity he ruled a de facto their fate in German captivity. Next to the status, working in oflags committees verification certifying officers' ranks of officers, took the occasion of the September issue of the appointment of cadets at second lieutenants. Officers who sit on these committees camp in some cases have resolved this problem at the expense of cadets. On the one hand rightly taken away the certificate on promotion that a cadet who got it directly from his commanders, on the other illegally deprived of an officer of the cadet whose order of 13 September 1939. With nominations for officers cadets, issued by the commander in chief Marshal Edward Śmigły-Rydz took over.

Example cadets in German captivity leads to the conclusion that even in a severe general position in which they were Polish soldiers did not know how to create a consolidated communities prisoner's of war, always ready to help others prisoner's. Even in captivity characters, worldviews, prejudice or habits they can not become a complete re-evaluation.

Despite attempts to build communities organized camp, he took up an ordinary human instinct of self-preservation, self-striving for the best experience of slavery.

Otherness cadets as a group prisoner's of war also resulted from the fact that a very visible commitment to the prisoner's of war culture, education, or in the resistance movement. All those things they taught basically organize themselves and acquitted this task very well. This activity is especially worth highlight and deserves recognition, if one takes into consideration the living conditions created Stalags and commandos of work and the fact that the vast majority of the time in captivity was filled with work. Classes for which they were allocated cadets, and forced them correctly, did not deviate from those that had to do the rest of the prisoners "Stalag". It should be stressed that the cadets have a captive status of non-commissioned officers, unlawfully forced to work. Classes to which they are allocated should be generally classified as heavy and very heavy. In particular, it was a work in all kinds of military installations, factories producing for the war and agriculture. Nevertheless, the cadets found the work more strength and desire to pursue other activities. Employment outside the camps created a very good options in dealing with the outside world, and easier to operate underground. Contacts and barter with civilians and good relations with camp guards, paid for with bribes of products from food packages have become very good opportunity to improve prison diet. Also influenced the attitude of guards to prisoners. By the way these contacts cadets gather information on the situation in the camps and outside them, sending them then to conspiracy in the country or to London. Cadets often and as eagerly undertook to escape from POW camps. How very different living conditions in prison camps of those in the concentration camps cadets have learned who the misguided mission courier AK Bronisław Uliński to unmask and consequently were incarcerated in Buchenwald. Those who passed through the concentration camp in stressing that, in terms of work, food, accommodation and camp crews with respect to detainees, the situation of prisoners in the camps of the Wehrmacht was better. In Buchenwald they feared for their lives every day, and the POW camps were not so burdened psychologically. Some cadets no longer lived to see liberation. They died of hunger, of abuse by the guards, and some hanged during a public execution. Generally happened with cadets in German captivity is a very good example of capture vary in terms of living conditions between oflags and stalags.

And that especially those cadets, having a comparative scale of living and working between the camps and concentration prisoner's vigorously opposed created with determination repeated post-war history hell of the concentration camps for cadets in

