

Przemysław Gorzałka
Jan Długosz University in Częstochowa
Faculty of Philology and History

MILITARY AFFAIRS IN WORKS OF THE RULING COMMISSION (1807)

(Summary)

The main aim of his thesis is to present the activities of the Ruling Commission and institutions subordinated to its power which purpose was to establish the Polish Army and create a logistics support area for the Grand Armée and Polish soldiers.

The Commission was created with the Napoleon's decree of 14th January 1807, but the scope of its military activity was far bigger than to send few Polish divisions to the front. This army had to be trained, armed, uniformed and given all necessary equipment. Moreover, there was a very important question concerning a supply system for Polish and allied troops. In order to do that, it was necessary to create military administration of the central and local levels as well as to set up the network of army supply stores, military hospitals and military health service. The stake was extremely high, because the Napoleon's help for restoring of Poland depended on the success of efforts of the Ruling Commission.

In this paper I took a try to answer the following research questions: What was the influence of activity of the Ruling Commission on a process of forming the Polish Army and its support area; In what way military administration was organized and who played the most important role in its structures? What was the way of forming Polish Army? What patterns or factors influenced on the decision-making process of the Ruling Commission? What were the costs of the support of soldiers and military officials? How did the Ruling Commission act to guarantee the Grand Armée and Polish troops an efficient supply system? What were the beginnings of military education in works of the provisional government?; Did the Commission acted in order to help invalids, veterans and the fallen soldiers' families? In what way the Commission financed building of the fortifications on lands subservient to its power?

The dissertation based on the extensive and absolutely essential for this topic fonds called *Komisja Rządząca (the Ruling Commission)* from the Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw. Other archival sources used in the paper played only supporting role.

This thesis consists of six chapters. The first chapter is devoted to the Ruling Commission and the General Directorate. It describes the composition of the government, the scope of its power and its internal organization.

The second chapter presents the organization of the Directorate of War as the most important institution dealing with the military matters. Except for the descriptions of foremost officials, with prince Józef Poniatowski and colonel Kajetan Hebdowski, this chapter describes the circumstances of the foundation of the Polish General Staff and the General Inspectorates of infantry and cavalry.

In the third chapter I described the organization of the Polish Army and its structure, explaining by the way some inaccuracies occurring in the literature. There are also given some information about several Polish units that were not parts of the regular army, but consisting of the Poles, they occupied the attention of the Ruling Commission. In the end of the chapter I gave the disposition of Polish units, with their strength and names of their commanders.

The next section is devoted to a levee en masse and the National Guard. The Commission adjusted its legal acts to the current military or economic situation, what was described in the chapter, just as institutions of "secret service" like the Directorate of Police and the Directorate of Postal Services.

The fifth chapter deals with very important and, in the same time, rarely presented affairs concerning military salaries, armament and supplies of Polish soldiers (and supplies of the Grand Armée). After that it was shown how the Ruling Commission was trying to create the network of army supply stores and to found military academies.

The last chapter concentrates on the governmental efforts to found military health service, and also to guarantee a care for the veterans and the fallen soldiers' families.

Finally, there are some conclusions and the author's attempt to give an impartial opinion regarding the Ruling Commission and its activity on the field of the organization of the army and its support area.

Przemysław Gwizdek