

Marek Stefański, *Colonel Stanisław Hojnowski (1893-1939). Biography of Tomaszów Mazowiecki's defender from September 1939*, Lodz 2021.

Summary

For many years, the military biography of the army of the Second Polish Republic has been intensively developing in Poland. This dissertation, written at the doctoral seminar at the Department of Polish and World History after 1945 under the supervision of habilitated doctor Witold Jarno, professor Uniwersytetu of Lodz, describing the life and service of Stanisław Piotr Hojnowski, an officer of the Polish Army of the Second Polish Republic. He was born on June 28, 1893 in Jadowniki near Brzesko, as the youngest of three children of Andrzej and Anna née Lubowiecka. After graduating from the gymnasium in Bochnia, he probably planned to study law, but chose a military career. In 1912 he joined the Austrian army, in which he remained until 1918 and where he achieved the rank of lieutenant.

Upon regaining independence, he joined the ranks of the reviving Polish army. From that moment on, he climbed the ranks of the officer career, receiving nominations for subsequent ranks. His first task in the Polish Army was to organize the defense of the inhabitants of Mszana Dolna against attacks by the local population. It was not an easy task, he had to overcome many problems, such as lack of uniforms and weapons. However, he fulfilled his task very well, in a short time organizing a strong unit that prevented several attacks on the city. The first unit to which S. Hojnowski went was the 16 Infantry Regiment from Tarnów, in this unit he was a company and battalion commander. With the 16 Infantry Regiment, he fought against the Czechs in Cieszyn Silesia and the Red Army. The next units in which he served were 85 Infantry Regiment from Nowa Wilejka, 16th Battalion of the The Border Protection Corps "Sienkiewiczze" and 15 Infantry Regiment from Dęblin. The next stop in his career was the 45th Infantry Regiment from Równe in Volhynia, which was part of the 13th Infantry Division. Both the division and the regiment wrote a glorious card, including during the fights for the borders of the Second Polish Republic. Stanisław Hojnowski became the head of the regiment at the end of 1935 and commanded it until September 1939. During that time, he worked on training and preparing his unit in another potential conflict.

In mid-August 1939, the regiment subordinate to him, along with the entire 13th Infantry Division, has been mobilized and directed to Pomerania, where it became a part of the Intervention Corps. After its dissolution, the 13th Infantry Division along with the 45th Infantry Regiment were placed under the command of Major General Stefan Dąb-Biernacki,

being a part of the "Prussia" Revenue Army. In the course of the fighting, the 45th Infantry Regiment (without the 1st Battalion) has been directed to the outskirts of Tomaszów Mazowiecki with the task of defending the city against the advancing units of the 16th Army Corps of the 10th Army. Colonel S. Hojnowski performed his task very well, but as a result of a combination of unfavorable circumstances, during the ordered retreat from his positions, he fell on the streets of Tomaszów Mazowiecki at night from 6 to 7 September. Colonel Stanisław Hojnowski was killed by bullets from the saboteurs from V column. Protecting his homeland against the German invasion, he gave away what he had most precious - his own life.

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