

Summary

Jan Mazurkiewicz „Radosław” (1896-1988). Soldier's biography

Born in 1896, Jan Mazurkiewicz was a representative of the generation that fought for the independence of Poland and then built the Second Polish Republic. His fate intertwines with the history of Poland in the 20th century

He grew up in the Austrian Partition, near Lwów. During I World War he fought in the Polish Legions, then acted in the Polish Military Organization (POW) in Ukraine. In 1918 r. he joined the Polish Army and took part in Polish-Soviet War of 1920.

Almost the entire interwar period his life was associated with the army. He served both in line units and in counterintelligence on the restless Eastern Borderlands of the Second Polish Republic. Relations with special services caused that he was involved in the preparation of sabotage in the event of war. In early 30. he also worked in the Riflemen's Association (Związek Strzelecki). Later Mazurkiewicz was an instructor at the Infantry Training Center in Rembertów near Warsaw, and a year before the Second World War, he took part in subversive actions in Cieszyn Sillesia and Carpathian Rus.

After the outbreak of World War II, he founded the Secret Military Organization (TOW) operating in Hungary and occupied Poland. In 1940 he returned to the homeland. In 1943 the Directorate of Diversion (Kedyw) was formed within the Home Army and Mazurkiewicz became the deputy commander and then took over the command of this formation.

During the Warsaw Uprising, Mazurkiewicz commanded the "Radoslaw" Grouping, one of the strongest insurgent units. For 63 days, his soldiers bravely resisted the Germans and fought for freedom.

After the defeat of the Uprising Mazurkiewicz and many of his soldiers did not go to prisoner of war camp. He began to reconstruct Kedyw, and after the dissolution of the Home Army he was active in the anti-Soviet organization "NIE" and then the Armed Forces Delegation for Poland (DSZ).

After the liberation, in September 1945, he began the action of coming out of hiding the Home Army. "Radoslaw" also helped AK members to return to a normal life, providing material support.

Strengthening of communist authorities meant fighting enemies and opposition. In 1949, the so-called "Radosław" case has started. For seven years, investigators have attempted to prove the existence of a large conspiracy that aimed at overthrowing the government. Mazurkiewicz and other arrested were beate by investigators who wanted to force them to testify about non existing conspiracy.

Destalinization contributed to the release of Mazurkiewicz. After 1956, he returned to social activities, he became involved in the veteran movement, which brought him closer to the communist authorities. He also became the guardian of the memory of the Warsaw Uprising.

Due to his activity, Mazurkiewicz became a controversial figure. When he was an authority for some, he was a traitor to others.

He died in 1988, eight years after he was promoted to the rank of general.

Robert Litch