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THE HUSSAR BANNER OF STANISŁAW AND MICHAŁ WARSZYCKI in 1676–1697

Abstract

The article describes the genesis, organisation and combat route of the hussar banner of Stanisław and Michał Warszycki in 1676–1697, referring to the neglected in our historiography issues of military genealogy dealing with the history of individual units. First, the article analyses the preserved source documents, including recruitments writs (Polish sing.: *list przypowiedni*), troops registers and accounts of the selected hussar banner; next, it describes the political, social and financial careers of its leaders: Stanisław and Michał Warszycki of the Abdank coat of arms, paying attention to their high position in the contemporary elites of the Commonwealth.

The core of the unit was the armoured banner of Stanisław Warszycki, organised in 1673, which changed its organisational status as a result of the increased number of hussars and functioned within the Crown *Komput* army until 1697. Next, the quantity and organisation of the hussar banner are described, with particular emphasis on the analysis of social, national and financial structures of 29 companions, serving in 1681. It was mainly middle nobility from Krakow, but also Łęczyca and Sieradz regions, from among the clientage of the Warszycki family. Their family alliances and military traditions were also identified, confirming the conclusions already known in the literature on the subject about the “patron-client” system in the community of Crown soldiers of the seventeenth century. Next, the logistics activities and the “battle route” of the Warszyckis’ hussars are described. At the end of the study, attention is paid to the importance of research in the field of military genealogy which could make it possible in the future to prepare a synthesis of the history of Polish cavalry in the old-Polish era.