"NOT ONLY FLOWING WITH MILK AND HONEY..."

SERVICE OF CERTIFIED LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARIAN MORAWSKI (1892–1945) IN THE ARMY OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC. AN OUTLINE OF A BIOGRAPHY

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The Republic of Poland, which was reborn in 1918, had to deal with many external and internal problems. Strenuous work on the reconstruction of statehood was carried out both in political cabinets and on the fronts of wars over state borders. However, the fight with the neighbours would not have been possible without the army, and therefore the Polish forces was reborn in parallel with statehood. In its ranks there were many soldiers for whom the Motherland was the most important. However, the army is not only privateers, but also officers who often spent the period of World War I in the partitioning armies, and who joined the Polish Army in 1918 and served in it in the following years. Over time, many of them have been forgotten or their names appear occasionally when discussing other topics. In my text, I would like to recall and outline the biography of one of the officers of the Second Polish Republic, certified Lieutenant Colonel (podpułkownik dyplomowany) Marian Morawski.

Marian Morawski was born on March 25, 1892 in Pruszków as the son of Władysław and Rozalia née Bartoszewicz.¹ Marian Morawski in the documents collected in the personal file stated that his father was a mechanic in railway workshops in Żbików. This information is some-

¹ CAW WBH, Marian Morawski, ap. 4654, Stan służby z 1920 r., bp.

what misleading. When filling out the State of Service (Stan Służby) document twice in 1918 and 1920, M. Morawski was to indicate his father's last place of work. As the railway workshops in Żbików near Pruszków, as a base for the Warsaw-Vienna "Iron Road", began to be built in 1895,2 therefore W. Morawski could start working there no sooner than three years after his son was born. Young Marian received elementary education in his family home, then he graduated from the railway technical school and the Artur Jeżewski's 7-class commercial school in Warsaw,3 obtaining his high school diploma (matura), and then four semesters of the Kiev Trade Institute. He married Paulina Bagocka⁴. However, he did not associate his career with trade, and after the outbreak of World War I, he joined the tsarist army. From December 1914 to May 1915, he was a student of the Konstantynów Military Infantry School in Kiev. His first assignment was the 132nd Infantry Regiment Reserve Battalion, in which he served until August 1915 as a company officer. From August 1915 until December 1917, he was associated with the 5th Turkestan Rifle Regiment, where he served as a company and battalion commander as well as a regiment's adjutant. Then, until January 29, 1919, he was associated with the eastern formations of the Polish Army (including the 2nd Polish Corps), and was also the commander of the Polish Military Organization—PMO (Polska Organizacja Wojskowa—POW) in the Vinnytsia district.⁵ During his service in the tsarist army, he achieved the rank of lieutenant (appointed on October 4, 1916), while, as reported in the documents in Polish formations in the east, he was appointed captain (on November 7, 1917, presented to the rank, from April 11, 1918, captain).

On January 29, 1919, he was admitted to the Polish Army and assigned to the 32nd Infantry Regiment Battalion in Ciechanów, where

² For more information about factory in Żbików see J. Kaleta, *Pruszków przemysłowy*, Pruszków 2010, pp. 97–112; B. Mielczarek, *Szkice z dziejów Pruszkowa. III. Przemysł pruszkowski w latach 1878–1918*, "Przegląd Pruszkowski" 1982, nr 1, pp. 10–12; M. Skwara, *Historia Pruszkowa do roku 1945*, Pruszków 2011, pp. 58–59.

³ This school was established in place of A. Ubysz's school, closed after the events of 1905. It was supported by advocate Artur Jeżewski, it was characterized by a relatively high level of upbringing and teaching. See J. Miąso, *Szkolnictwo handlowe w Królestwie Polskim (1855–1914)*, "Rozprawy z Dziejów Oświaty" 1965, nr 8, p. 161.

⁴ CAW WBH, Marian Morawski, ap. 4654, Stan służby z 1920 r., bp. The author did not manage to establish the date of the wedding of the Morawski's parents.

⁵ CAW WBH, Marian Morawski, ap. 4654, Karta kwalifikacyjna dla Komisji Weryfikacyjnej, bp.

⁶ CAW WBH, Marian Morawski ap. 4654, Karta ewidencyjna z 1920 r., bp.

he became the commander of the Non-Commissioned Officers School. In March 1919, he was a student of the 1st Staff Adjutants Course at the Supreme Command of the Polish Army.

In the initial period, the resurgent army suffered from a small number of officers. Therefore, professional soldiers were accepted into its ranks, regardless of their previous affiliation. Such a situation, however, posed many difficulties, because first of all, each group was trained according to different patterns. There was also a shortage of trained officers for staff work. This problem was noticed at the dawn of the formation of the officer corps of the Polish Army. In December 1918, one of the seven departments of the created Ministry of Military Affairs was the VII Department of Military Education headed by Gen. Jan Jacyna. At the beginning of 1919, the problem of the shortage of staff adjutants was dealt with, on March 10, 1919, the first course, headed by General Second Stefan Majewski. His listeners were officers from all infantry, artillery and cavalry regiments as well as from Command of the General District (Dowództwo Okręgu Generalnego-DOG) (1 per unit). The course ended on April 19, 1919. After graduating, M. Morawski was assigned as one of 33 officers as a staff adjutant. He was sent to the Command of the Lithuanian-Belarusian Front.⁷

During the battles for borders he was associated, with among others, with the command of the 1st Lithuanian-Belarusian Division. When M. Morawski was admitted to the Polish Army, there was a problem with his rank. The conducted proceedings showed that he was admitted to the newly formed Polish Army as a lieutenant, while he was mistakenly assigned as a captain to the Lithuanian-Belarusian Front.⁸ In 1922 he was verified as a major,⁹ and in January 1929 he was promoted to lieutenant colonel.¹⁰ During his service in the Polish army, M. Morawski, apart from decorations from the tsarist army (Order of St. Anna, 4th and 3rd degree, and Order of St. Stanisław, 2nd and 3rd degree¹¹), received four times the Cross of Valor, the Gold Cross of Merit, the Cross of Independence and the Cross of Merit of the Lithuanian Army Central.¹²

⁷ A. Wszendyrówny, *I kurs Wojennej Szkoły Sztabu Generalnego w budowaniu bezpieczeństwa państwa*, "Kwartalnik Bellona" 2015, nr 3, pp. 117–120.

 $^{^8}$ CAW WBH WBH, Marian Morawski, ap. 4654, Arkusz wywiadowczy do Sekcji 2 Departamentu Personalnego z 19 lutego 1920 r., bp.

⁹ Lista starszeństwa oficerów zawodowych, Warszawa 1922, p. 35.

 $^{^{\}rm 10}$ Dziennik Personalny MSWojsk. 1929, Nr 2 z 24 stycznia, p. 1.

¹¹ See CAW WBH, Marian Morawski, ap. 4654, Karta ewidencyjna z 1920 r., bp.

¹² See *Rocznik Oficerski 1929*, Warszawa 1929, s. 22.

The next assignment of M. Morawski was 50th Infantry Regiment (IR), in which he was a full-time officer seconded to the Department of Soldiers' Settlements in the Cabinet of the Minister of Military Affairs. 13 In May 1924 he was transferred to 24 IR from 27th Infantry Division stationed in Łuck to the position of the commander of the 2nd battalion. 14 On November 1, 1924, he was directed to a one-year course at the Higher Military School,¹⁵ and after completing it, he obtained a scientific diploma of an officer of the General Staff. On October 15, 1925, he was assigned to the 27th Infantry Division, where he took the position of chief of staff.¹⁶ He held this position for two years, and at the end of October 1927 he returned to the position of deputy regiment commander at 24th IR.¹⁷ He served in the Łuck regiment until November 1930, and then he was assigned to an equivalent position up to 10th IR from Łowicz (26th Infantry Division). His next assignment in 1932 was the 10th Regional Office of Physical Education and Military Training at the Command of Corps District No. X in Przemyśl.

The State Office of Physical Education and Military Training (Państwowy Urząd Wychowania Fizycznego i Przysposobienia Wojskowego—PUWFiPW) began its activity in 1927, and its primary role was to manage work related to general physical education and military training. In April 1928, a decision was made to create a District Office of Physical Education and Military Training, which is The State Office of Physical Education and Military Training in a nutshell, at each Corps District Command (CDC, Dowództwo Okregu Korpusu-DOK). One of them was the one to which M. Morawski went. According to the opinions left by his superiors, he did not perform well in this position. Commander of the Corps District No. X of Gen. Brig. Janusz Głuchowski, who gave his opinion in 1934, explicitly stated that M. Morawski was not suitable for this position, indicating, inter alia, for his low resolve, often misguided initiative and family problems. Also Col. Dipl. Władysław Kiliński, director of the State Office of Physical Education and Military Training, gave him a similar assessment, agreeing to the arguments indicated by the commander of CDC X. There was also a need to transfer him. 18

¹³ Rocznik Oficerski 1923, Warszawa 1923, p. 266.

¹⁴ Dziennik Personalny MSWojsk. 1924, Nr 48 z 15 maja, p. 274.

¹⁵ Dziennik Personalny MSWojsk. 1924, Nr 78 z 12 sierpnia, p. 445.

¹⁶ Dziennik Personalny MSWojsk. 1925, Nr 106 z 15 października, p. 571.

¹⁷ Dziennik Personalny MSWojsk. 1927, Nr 25 z 31 października, p. 313.

 $^{^{\}rm 18}$ CAW WBH, Marian Morawski, ap. 4654, Roczne uzupełnienie listy kwalifikacyjnej za 1934 rok, bp.

During his service in Przemyśl, M. Morawski also belonged to the Polish White Cross (Polski Biały Krzyż — PBK). ¹⁹ This organization was established in the United States and Canada during World War I, and was headed by Helena Paderewska, the wife of the outstanding Polish pianist, composer and independence activist, Ignacy Paderewski. Initially operating in exile, after regaining independence, PBK started operating in Poland, cooperating with the army, among others in combating illiteracy in the army. ²⁰

In 1934 he was transferred from 10 SOPE&MT at CDC X to 45th IR from Rivne commanded by Col. Dipl. Bronisław Prugar–Kettling. This unit was part of the 13th Infantry Division, and in this regiment M. Morawski took the position of deputy commander once again in his career.²¹

Marian Morawski once again, during his service, found himself in the south-eastern territories of the Second Polish Republic. These were not foreign areas to him—for many years he was an officer in the 24th Infantry Regiment stationed in Lutsk. Now it came to Rivne, which was the largest city in the then Volyn Province. Despite the fact that in the times of the Second Polish Republic this city with over 40,000 people was a large military garrison (among others the 13th Infantry Division and the command of the Volhynian Cavalry Brigade were stationed here), it did not appear to be the promised land. Officers who arrived here, such as Jerzy Kirchmayer (in 1932–1935, the 1st Staff Officer of the 13th Infantry Division) pointed to the ugliness of Rivne, but the activities of the Polish city authorities slowly changed this situation.²²

On the other hand, the regiment to which Lt. Col. M. Morawski came from the Polish Army in France. As the 3rd Polish Rifle Regiment, it was part of the 1st Polish Rifle Division (1st PRD) formed in 1918. After the end of World War I and the international recognition of Ignacy Paderewski's government, 1st PRD was sent to Poland. It was directed to the Lublin and Volhynia regions, where it took part in Polish strikes. In April 1919, the regiments of the 1st PRD changed their name from Polish Rifle Regiments to Foot Rifle Regiments, while in September 1919 the 1st PRD became the 13th Infantry Regiment,

¹⁹ "Oświata – to potęga". Wydawnictwo pamiątkowe z okazji obchodu 15-lecia Niepodległości Państwa Polskiego, Przemyśl 1933, p. 95.

²⁰ A. Niewęgłowska, *Polski Biały Krzyż a wojsko w latach 1919–1939*, Toruń 2005, pp. 18–29.

²¹ Dziennik Personalny MSWojsk. 1934, Nr 14 z 22 grudnia, p. 257.

²² For example see J. Kirchmayer, *Pamiętniki*, Warszawa 1987, pp. 301, 340–341.

and its regiments were included in the Polish army as 43rd, 44th, 45th and 50th IR. This composition of the division was maintained until the fall of 1921, when as a result of the transition to peace, Polish infantry divisions changed to the three-regiment system, so 50th IR went to the 27th Infantry Division. The new regiment of M. Morawski also went down in history during the fights for the borders of the reborn state, among others fighting at Napadówka (now Ukraine) with the Soviet 6th Cavalry Division on May 31, 1920.²³

From the very beginning, M. Morawski in the new assignment became known as a person with quite big problems. After arriving in Rivne, he and his family signed up for dining in the regimental casino. He also noted that he would temporarily not make payments for meals because he had not yet repaid other debts. For Christmas, however, he ordered a large amount of food and alcohol. After Stanisław Bobrowski consulted with the then commander of 45th IR, B. Prugar-Kettling, it was decided to release only food from the casino to M. Morawski. This event had an impact on the relations between M. Morawski and S. Bobrowski. Some time after the described situation, field exercises took place, during which S. Bobrowski was the commander of the party, and M. Morawski his arbitrator. During their lifetime, S. Bobrowski made a certain tactical decision, which turned out to be the right one. The deputy commander of 45th IR changed his decision, considering the previous one to be wrong. During the discussion of the exercise, the second conciliator recognized the correctness of S. Bobrowski's original order.²⁴ Cooperation with M. Morawski with both officers lasted until the end of 1935, when Col. Dipl. B. Prugar-Kettling was promoted to the head of the Infantry Department of the Ministry of Military Affairs, while Major S. Bobrowski was delegated to the Corps District No. X Command in Przemyśl. Lt. Col. Stanisław Hojnowski was appointed the new commander of the 45th IR, so far serving in the 15th IR in Deblin, who took command on November 19, 1935, and then on November 22, he left for Lublin to report to the commander of Corps District II, General Mieczysław Smorawiński, and went for a two-week transfer leave. Therefore, until December 9, 1935, M. Morawski was in command of the regiment.²⁵ As a deputy com-

²³ More about history of 45th IR see J. Dąbrowski, *Zarys historji wojennej 45-go pułku piechoty strzelców kresowych*, Warszawa 1928, passim.

²⁴ S. Bobrowski, *W służbie Rzeczypospolitej. Moje wspomnienia*, Warszawa 2006, p. 123.

 $^{^{25}}$ See: CAW WBH, 45 pp, I.320.45.10, Rozkaz dzienny nr 231 z 19 XI 1935 r., bp oraz Rozkaz dzienny nr 248 z 9 XII 1935, bp.

mander in the regiments in which he served, he performed many functions. For example, during his term in office in 24th IR in April 1928, he participated in the ceremonial completion of the thirteenth course of the non-commissioned officer school of 24th IR, while in September of that year he became a member of the committee for the care of graves and battlefields located in Volhynia.26 On the other hand, during the service in 45th IR, he was replacing his immediate superior, e.g. in March or at the turn of September and October 1936, in the event of absence due to leaves.²⁷ He also appeared as a representative of the unit at ceremonies, e.g. in 1937 he was a delegate to the celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the formation of Polish formations in France, which took place in Warsaw.²⁸ He also participated in the training of the unit and participated, among others, in the work of the Coordination Committee at CDC II. The institution of the Coordination Committee appeared in May 1936. General Tadeusz Kasprzycki, who was then the Minister of Military Affairs, convened a meeting in the ministry. As a result, the Central Coordination Committee was established at the Military Scientific and Educational Institute. It was an inter-union institution representing organizations such as the Union of Reservists, the Riflemen's Association or the State Office of Physical Education and Military Training. With its inception, the propaganda activity among the population came to the fore. Over time, Coordinating Committees began to be established at subsequent CDC. The same happened in CDC II located in the eastern borderlands.²⁹

During the Second Polish Republic, the Volhynian Voivodeship was one of the territories with a large percentage of national minorities, especially Ukrainian. When Henryk Józewski was serving as the voivode of Volhynia, there were attempts to win over the Ukrainians living in Volhynia by granting them privileges. However, after the death of Józef Piłsudski in 1935, the opinion that these areas were Polish by the actions of the army and state authorities began to prevail. This was to be achieved by the meetings held from 1935 by the voivode H. Józewski with the commander of Corps District II Lublin, General

²⁶ P. Dymek, *Wołyńska Dywizja. 27. Dywizja Piechoty 1921–1939*, Oświęcim 2015, pp. 79, 101–102

²⁷ CAW WBH, 45 pp, I.320.45.11, Rozkaz dzienny nr 58 z 12 III 1936 r., bp; Rozkaz dzienny nr 204 z 28 IX 1936 r., bp.

 $^{^{\}rm 28}$ CAW WBH, 45 pp, I.320.45.12, Rozkaz dzienny nr 123 z 4 VI 1937 r., bp.

 $^{^{29}}$ J. Kęsik, $Z\,działalności\,Komitetów\,Koordynacyjnych\,w latach 1936–1939, "Res Historica" 2013, no. 35, pp. 111–113.$

Mieczysław Smorawiński. On the other hand, the following year, the Committee was established at CDC II, whose task was to coordinate the national policy in the eastern territories of the Lublin Voivodeship and in the Volhynian Voivodeship.³⁰ The organizational meeting was held on December 11, 1936, when a decision was made to keep the proceedings confidential, unlike other committees in the country. The first plenary meeting was held on June 4, 1937, it was attended by representatives of the army, but also civil authorities, the Polish Teachers' Union (Związek Nauczycielstwa Polskiego–ZNP) and professors of the Catholic University of Lublin, as well as representatives of provincial structures of such organizations as, for example, the Riflemen's Association, the Union of Reservists, the League of Anti-Aircraft and Anti-Gas Defense, etc.³¹ During its operation, the Committee at CDC II was a structure that showed great activity, especially when compared to its counterparts from other parts of the country.³²

Lieutenant Colonel M. Morawski in his report, which was probably prepared for one of the Committee meetings on June 3, 1937, raised many issues related to Volhynia (Wołyń). He indicated, inter alia, on the need to increase the percentage of the Polish population in Volhynia, which would allow it to have a stronger impact on the opinion of Volhynian towns and villages. He also postulated, in cooperation with schools, Catholic Church and Easterm Orthodox Church, social organizations, theater, etc. Creation of a new type of borderland citizen associated with Poland, who would be a "Wołyniak". The views presented in this paper by M. Morawski largely coincided with the priorities set by the members of the Coordinating Committee at CDC II, such as strengthening and expanding Polish culture in Volhyn. 34

Marian Morawski, while serving in 45th IR, not only devoted himself to the officer's service. In the 1930s, he was troubled by financial problems, the symptoms of which can be found in around 1931. His superiors began to notice the difficult financial situation of M. Morawski. He was supporting a family of seven from his salary.³⁵ His troubles

³⁰ A. Ostanek, "Nasze dzisiaj i nasze jutro na Wołyniu". Niepublikowany referat ppłk. dypl. Mariana Morawskiego na temat wizji przyszłości Wołynia w granicach II Rzeczypospolitej, "Гілея. Науковий Вісник" 2018, Вип. 138 (№ 11) Ч. 1. Історичні науки, р. 42.

³¹ J. Kęsik, op. cit., p. 120-121.

³² Ibidem, p. 128.

³³ A. Ostanek, op.cit., p. 43.

³⁴ J. Kęsik, op. cit., p. 122-123.

³⁵ CAW WBH, Marian Morawski, ap. 4654, Roczne uzupełnienie listy kwalifikacyjnej za rok 1931, bp.

in private life began to affect his professional career. In the opinion of his superiors, he was never an outstanding officer, rather a solid laborer. As such his position in army as a trainer and superior slowly began to degrade. Bronisław Prugar-Kettling, commander of 45th IR in 1935, giving the opinion on him, stated that he was a calm and good man, full of hope and good intentions, but with a soft character. On the other hand, about his debts, he wrote that they exceed the possibility of their repayment, and the material conditions of M. Morawski are deplorable. The relations in the lieutenant colonel's family also caused him a lot of worry. Opinions about the deputy commander of 45th IR did not change during the term of office of Stanisław Hojnowski, who wrote in 1936:

He was of little benefit in the position of deputy commander. This is mainly due to the lack of authority among subordinates, followed by family and material troubles, which take up a lot of thought and time. This has a negative effect on service. For the benefit of the subject and the service, it is absolutely necessary to transfer him from the regiment to another area, where he could start working in new conditions.³⁷

The then commander of the 13th Infantry Division, Col. Dipl. Aleksander Myszkowski also suggested that he should be transferred to the units of the National Defense or to the position of the commander of the County Supplement Commission.³⁸

Marian Morawski, however, did not change the unit in which he served, or the position he held. By decision of the military-medical commission at the Ministry of Military Affairs for professional military of April 12, 1938, Lt. Dipl. Marian Morawski retired at the end of July 1938.³⁹

As it turned out, however, it was not the definitive end of M. Morawski's career. It is worth mentioning that during the fights in 1939 he was captured by the Soviets, then imprisoned in the camp in Griazowiec. In October 1940, he was one of the Polish Army officers

³⁶ CAW WBH, Marian Morawski, ap. 4654, Roczna lista kwalifikacyjna za 1935 rok, bp.

³⁷ CAW WBH, Marian Morawski, ap. 4654, Roczna lista kwalifikacyjna za 1936 rok, bp. ³⁸ Ibidem

³⁹ CAW WBH WBH, ap. 4654, Marian Morawski, Orzeczenie komisji wojskowo-lekarskiej przy Ministrze Spraw Wojskowych dla wojskowych zawodowych z dnia 12 IV 1938 r., bp.

who were tried to be recruited for cooperation with the Soviets. This was the result of talks between General Marian Januszajtis, arrested by the NKVD (People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs), and Lavrenty Beria about the possible organization of Polish troops at the Red Army. It was intended to use for this purpose the military survivors of the Katyn massacre, including Griazowiec prisoners. Marian Morawski was transported to Moscow, among others with Lt. Col. Zygmunt Berling. After arriving in the capital, he and other officers were sent to the NKVD prison in Butyrki.⁴⁰ At that time, he was interrogated by the NKVD.

Among the ideas of M. Morawski, which he presented to the Russians during the talks were establishing an independent Polish People's Republic (Polska Rzeczpospolita Ludowa—PRL), as well as the Polish People's Social Committee in Moscow. The second of the aforementioned institutions would be composed of representatives of Polish social activists and prisoners of war and would start the process of creating the Polish People's Army. However, he did not cooperate, so he returned to Butryki, where he stayed until the signing of the Sikorski-Majski pact on July 30, 1941. Having regained his freedom, he joined the Army of General Władysław Anders, where he commanded, among others, Reserve Center of the 5th Infantry Division. He died on August 6, 1945, and was buried in Cairo.

As a curiosity, it is also worth mentioning that one of the five children of Marian Morawski was Zygmunt, born in Pruszków in 1921. After graduating from high school in 1938, he joined the Polish Army, took part in the September Campaign (Invasion of Poland in 1939) and was a member of the Separated Unit of the Polish Army of Major Henryk Dobrzański "Hubal". After the unit was dissolved, he made his way to the Middle East, where in 1943 he committed suicide. 42

This article is only an outline of the biography of Lt. Col. M. Morawski. He was one of the many who devoted themselves to their homeland. It is obvious that the officer corps of the Polish Army consists of hundreds of names and biographies. Each of them deserves a commemoration, even in the form of a short biographical article. Not

⁴⁰ S. Jaczyński, "Willa szczęścia" w Małachówce. Próby pozyskania przez NKWD oficerów polskich do współpracy politycznej i wojskowej (1940–1941), "Przegląd Historyczno-Wojskowy" 2011, nr 3, pp. 62–65.

⁴¹ Ibidem, p. 74.

⁴² See M. Szymański, *Oddział majora Hubala*. Warszawa 1986, pp. 153–156.

everyone will be given it, however, but from today Marian Morawski is among the few who have received this honor.

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Summary

The article outlines the biography of an officer in the Polish Army of the Second Republic of Poland, Lieutenant Colonel Marian Morawski. Through this text, M. Morawski is another restored descendant of the Polish pre-war army. He was born at the end of the 19th century in Pruszków near Warsaw, he probably planned to engage in trade in the future, but the outbreak of World War I made M. Morawski join the ranks of the tsarist army. After the end of the global conflict, he joined the resurgent army of the Second Polish Republic, holding various functions. In 1938, for health reasons, he was transferred to the reserve, and after the Polish campaign of 1939, he was taken prisoner by the Soviets, where attempts were made to obtain him for the construction of Polish troops at the Red Army. After the Sikorski-Majski pact, he went to the West. He died in 1945 in Cairo.

Keywords: Second Polish Republic, Polish Army, Marian Morawski, 45th Infantry Regiment, Polish officers, biography, Interwar Poland

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