

Łambinowicki Rocznik Muzealny

JĘŃCY WOJENNI W LATACH II WOJNY ŚWIATOWEJ

Tom 44

Anna Czerner

Centralne Muzeum Jeńców Wojennych

Pozostać sobą – rola sportu w przetrwaniu niewoli

To stay oneself – the role of sport in surviving captivity (Summary)

The article makes an attempt at formulating an answer to the question on social functions of sport in POW camps run by the Wehrmacht, which were realized on the group level and – what was also devoted a good deal of attention to – individual ones. Such a distribution of emphases means that in the centre of the analysis there are issues of the social role and personal identity of soldiers who were very often doomed to several years of isolation. Captivity was an atypical situation, introducing into individuals' biographies a threat to their identities that had already formed in the pre-war conditions. The identities, especially in the case of soldiers serving in the ranks of officers, as it may be supposed, were marked to a large extent by belonging to this concrete professional group. Therefore, the title question of "staying oneself" to a great degree meant simply "remaining a soldier" – against different forms of oppression written into the Wehrmacht captivity system. Regarding its definition, sport rests on three pillars: autotelicity, selflessness and agonistic, becoming a plane of transcending multifarious limitations (transgression), cultivating significant values, social integration of anti-system resistance, which was demonstrated by recalling a few distinctive episodes connected with physical activity. They come mainly from oflags.

Renata Urban

Uniwersytet Szczeciński

Polscy olimpijczycy w niemieckich obozach jenieckich

Polish Olympians in German prisoner-of-war camps (Summary)

Polish athletes – as a national representation – had not made their debut in the Olympic Games until 1924. In the Interwar period, they competed in four winter Olympics (Chamonix 1924, St. Moritz 1928, Lake Placid 1932, Garmisch Partenkirchen 1936) and four summer ones (Paris 1924, Amsterdam 1928, Los Angeles 1932, Berlin 1936). Altogether, there were 327 Olympians who took part in the Games – 266 athletes representing Poland in the summer Olympics and 61 in the winter ones. In 1939, some of them had commenced their preparations for the successive Olympic Games planned for 1940. The outbreak of World War II disrupted all training camps and the athletes – including Olympians – were sent to fight in the front lines. There were 12 Polish Olympians of the Interwar years who were killed directly in combat with the aggressor or died in other circumstances during the Polish September Campaign. Many found themselves taken captive and were interned in German or Soviet POW camps, the most numerous groups of POWs being those at Oflag II C Woldenberg, then II D Gross Born, VII A Murnau and II B Arnswalde, from where they were transferred to other oflags. Despite the hardships of living in captivity, the Olympians initiated actions aimed at taking up physical activity and sports rivalry by all POWs, appreciating the significance of sport for maintaining physical and psychic health condition and prevention of the 'behind-the-wires' disease. They also perceived the integrative and social advantages of practising sports. To many POWs their engaging in sports activities became a way of surviving six years in captivity.

Jan Daniluk

Polsko-Amerykańska Fundacja Upamiętnienia Obozów Jenieckich w Szubinie

Sport jeniecki w latach II wojny światowej w świetle raportów YMCA (szkic)

Prisoner-of-war sport in the years of World War II in the light of the YMCA reports (a sketch) (Summary)

The article undertakes to synthetically describe POWs' sport in the years of World War II. It is based on the reports drawn up by delegations of the YMCA that were inspecting German POW camps being places

of internment for soldiers of western countries. The reports have been relatively rarely used by researchers to date. On the basis of the documents identified in German archives (all in all 50 documents) the most popular sports disciplines were presented, as well as the formation of sports infrastructure and conditions in which POW sport was developing in the eastern Military Districts (*Wehrkreise*): VIII, XX and XXI in the years of World War II. The present study has the form of a sketch and is of the advance character.

Maria Buła
Centralne Muzeum Jeńców Wojennych

Działalność Wojskowego Klubu Sportowego „Lwów” w Oflagu II C Woldenberg na stronach klubowej kroniki (1939–1945)

The activity of the “Lvov” Military Sports Club in Oflag II C Woldenberg as recorded on the pages of the Club’s chronicle (1939–1945) (Summary)

Sports activity in POW camps played a most important role. The living conditions behind the wires were not able to completely interfere with the efforts to work on maintaining vitality and physical condition. It was both POWs and the Polish camp authorities who were keen on keeping fit in camp conditions. Members of both groups, by wishing to prevent the boredom that often led to psychic breakdowns or, in consequence, attempts at suicide, were willing to take part in planned activities. The article presents the analysis of the “Lvov” Military Sports Club’s chronicle which is found in the collection of the Central Museum of Prisoners of War. The Club was active in Oflag II C Woldenberg in the years 1940–1945. On the basis of the analysis of the artefact it was possible to establish, among others, how the sports life looked like in the Oflag, in what manner the events were immortalized on the pages of the chronicle and which of the games enjoyed the biggest interest. It needs remembering at the same time that there were no formal counterindications for the German authorities to hamper or forbid to carry out activities of the sports-recreational character, and the POWs were able to successfully take care of their physical condition and health. Obviously, all disciplines in which POWs would use “dangerous” objects, like archery or the javelin throw, were excluded from the competitions.

Kamil Weber
Centralne Muzeum Jeńców Wojennych

Prasa sportowa za drutami oflagów. Działalność redaktora Zygmunta Weissa

The sports press behind oflags wires. The activity of Zygmunt Weiss, an editor (Summary)

In recent years Zygmunt Weiss has become a slightly forgotten figure. Nevertheless, he made a considerable contribution not only to the development of the Polish athletics, but also sports journalism in the prewar and wartime years. What is surprising, he was able to develop his passions even in the hard conditions of POW camps – mainly in Oflags II B Arnswalde and II D Gross Born. Thanks to this he also made a significant impact on the life of the POW community. His everyday work provided his inmates with entertainment. It also contributed to their better condition, which could substantially augment the chances of survival, impacting on their psychic and physical health. The article presents the life of Z. Weiss on different planes: as an athlete – a representative of Poland and an Olympian, sports journalist and a prisoner of war.

Anna Matuchniak-Mystkowska
Uniwersytet Łódzki

Pogranicza sportu i sztuki – analizy sztuki jenieckiej. Studium z socjologii sztuki *cross-genre*

Boundaries of sport and art – an analysis of prisoners’ of war art. A *cross-genre* study in sociology of art (Summary)

Sociology of art (dealt with by E. Cassirer, S. Ossowski, P. Francastel, P. Bourdieu, A. Kłosowska, B. Sułkowski, A. Matuchniak) and historical sociology form the theoretical and methodological frame of this analysis. Relations between sport, art, religion – well-known from ancient times – are still present in contemporary fine arts, music, film and literature. Sport can make a theme in art, as well as itself be an art *tout court* due to aesthetic aspects of body, movement, effort, suffering, triumph, spectacle. This

study focuses on art created by POWs – officers interned in oflags run by the Wehrmacht during World War II. It includes examples of fine arts and literature (sport as the theme of art), instances of para-theatrical spectacles (sport as art) and applied art used in the sports domain (posters, diplomas, club ID cards).

Kacper Ciesielski

Muzeum Katyńskie Oddział Martyrologiczny Muzeum Wojska Polskiego

Sportowcy wśród ofiar zbrodni katyńskiej oraz powiązane z nimi artefakty grobowe i archiwalia w zbiorach Muzeum Katyńskiego

Athletes among the victims of the Katyn Crime and tomb artefacts and archival items connected with them as found in the collection of the Katyn Museum (Summary)

Army officers, Katyn Museum The article is devoted to a group of sportsmen who were murdered by the Soviet NKVD in the Katyn massacre in 1940. The fates of eleven Olympians who represented Poland in the Olympic Games, including two medal winners, are presented. The author lists the names of officers and policemen with reference to the sports disciplines they practiced. The article ends with a presentation of items connected with the athletes, which remain in the collection of the Katyn Museum. The photographs, archival documents and artefacts related to graves, which are used in the work, complement the text in a peculiar way.

Monika Sobczak

Centralne Muzeum Jeńców Wojennych

Aktywność gimnastyków w Oflagu VI B Dössel na podstawie relacji por. Zdzisława Kuscha „Gimnastyka na drążku”

The activity of gymnasts in Oflag VI B Dössel on the basis of Lt. Zdzisław Kusch's account entitled Gimnastyka na drążku (Summary)

The article presents an unusual form of sports activity developed by prisoners of war detained in German POW camps, that is drills with the use of a horizontal bar. This specific form of practicing gymnastics was started by a small group of Polish officers interned in Oflag VI B Dössel, under the supervision of Lt. Zdzisław Kusch – a well-known marksman and sports-activist. His account, which was archived in the Central Museum of Prisoners-of-War under the title Gimnastyka na drążku [Gymnastics on the bar], describing the spectacular gymnastic show that took place in Oflag VI B in October 1943, made the basis of the present article.