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Wehrmacht in the Lublin District of the General Government in 1939-1944.
A study of the history of the organization and functioning of the German armed forces
in Poland during World War II.

Research Abstract

The subject of my doctoral dissertation is the activities of the Wehrmacht in the Lublin district of the General Government in 1939-1944. Therefore, first of all, the presence and then the functioning of the German armed forces in the Lublin district of the General Government in 1939-1944 was thoroughly recognized.

The structural basis of the dissertation is the problem-chronological (subject) system. Therefore, the individual chapters concern the fundamental problems related to the organization and functioning of the German army in the Lublin district of the General Government (Lublin Province) in the years 1939 - 1944. The work has an Introduction, six chapters, which are initially provided with a brief introduction, and at the end with a résumé.

The source basis for this work are archival materials collected in four archives: the Archives of New Files in Warsaw, the State Archives in Lublin, the Branch Archives of the Institute of National Remembrance in Lublin, and the Archives of the State Museum at Majdanek.

The first chapter concerns the September campaign in the Lublin region and the creation of the General Government. The second chapter deals with the organizational structure of the German army in the Lublin district. The next (third) chapter covers the participation of Wehrmacht units in anti-insurgency and pacification actions in the Lublin district. Chapter four of the dissertation covers the subject of the German military judiciary in the Lublin district. The fifth chapter of this work presents the issues of Wehrmacht POW camps in the Lublin district. The last, sixth chapter discusses "other aspects" of the Wehrmacht's activity in the Lublin district, which were not included in the previous chapters of the dissertation or were presented

marginally, and are important for the overall picture of the presence of the Wehrmacht in the Lublin region in 1939-1944, that is the relations of the German army with the civil administration of the Lublin district, relations of the German army, especially its commands, with the extensive structure of the German police apparatus; Wehrmacht's attitude towards the civilian population and everyday life of German soldiers in the Lublin district.

At the end of the thesis there are: Conclusion, Bibliography, 6 Annexes (containing completely new arrangements regarding, for example, the dislocation of German units and their staffing), the Personal Index and the Index of Geographical Names.

It should be emphasized that this dissertation opens new research on the Wehrmacht in the Lublin region in 1939-1944. Because it is the first time in Polish historiography that it accurately recognizes the dislocation of German army units, their names and command, and above all, their participation in specific combat, pacification or extermination actions.

Baltomiej Gęsto