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**THE PARTICIPATION OF LEAVERS OF VILNA MILITARY
INFANTRY SCHOOL IN ORGANIZING CULTURAL AND
EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENTS IN POLISH CAMPS FOR INTERNED
UKRAINIAN TROOPS (1920-1923)**

Summary

The living conditions of Ukrainian People's Republic troops (1920-1923) in the largest in number Polish detention camps in Pikulyentsy, Chenstohov, Alyeksandrov, etc. have been analyzed. The role of some leavers of Vilna Military Infantry School who took an active part in the formation of cultural and educational departments in detention camps has been thoroughly studied. The documents (minutes of different sections meetings) of participants of cultural and educational departments are published for the first time. The directions of their work have been analyzed. It has been found out that most Vilna cadets had pedagogical education in addition to military one, that simplified their task. By means of the comparative analysis it has been found out that the development of cultural and educational departments was more successful in Pikulyentsy and later in Alyeksandrov. The main activities became opening of sports sections, libraries,

buying books, development of drama groups, publication of their own press and many others. Thanks to volunteers of cultural and educational departments Ukrainian military men in the status of interned were not out of conceit with the situation, didn't become discouraged and supported each other in difficult life circumstances.

So, during 1920-1924 the troops of Ukrainian People's Republic were in the status of the interned on the territory of Poland. However the chronological framework is identified by us as 1923 taking into account the available archive material. The analyzed documents enable to realize rather difficult financial and moral condition of the Ukrainian troop. Under these conditions leavers of Vilna Military Infantry School were able to not only adjust to life but successfully develop its soul base founding cultural and educational units in biggest camps that gave Ukrainian soldiers an opportunity to do sport, read, study. Neither cold nor hunger and depreciatory status of the interned broke morale. It couldn't be in different way if conscientious people with perfect competence kept ward.

Key words: *Ukrainian People's Republic, Poland, internment, cultural and educational department.*