

Press service of the Ukrainian Galician Army

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Abstract – The article the author analyzes the major periodicals of UGA issued with the support of the front-line troops and other military units. The author also gives a brief description of the major press services of state organs of the time.

Keywords – document-information system, press services, press organs, periodicals, Ukrainian Galician Army, the Ukrainian-Polish war.

I. Introduction

Together with the process of origination and formation of the West Ukrainian National Republic (ZUNR) actually the process of development of the armed forces of the country, as a regular military army on the basis of military duty began. This process of formation and establishment of an efficient UGA was closely connected not only with the organization of its combat units, but also with a well-established document-information system of support of the army.

One of the components of structures of UGA, which worked in the channel of informing of the army, was the press service. Therefore, it is appropriate to provide an overview of the press, which was created by the initiative of the army personnel and became very closely connected with it. Among 50 periodicals that were issued during the 1918-1919 in Galicia and East Ukraine, the best and the most directly illustrating spirit of Galician warriors were periodicals, issued with the support of the front-line units or periodicals issued even by smaller military formations.

II. Press organs of the state

Information field of ZUNR was mainly filled by the organizations of civilian and national character, or by government agencies. In its majority the press of ZUNR was of non-partisan nature and supported the struggle leading to Ukrainian statehood. Almost all organs of the press included some government sections or headings, which housed a variety of information, orders and laws being of general and local character as well as having, to a certain extent, secular and military nature. A separate section in periodicals was dedicated to the official reports from the frontlines. In addition, in connection with the Ukrainian-Polish war, considerable attention was paid to the orders of the army headquarters and to the orders of local military formations, events from the frontlines; they published lists of the fallen riflemen and officers.

At the initial stage of the formation of the army and its establishing (in November-December 1918) prior to

its reorganization into brigades and corps a lot of different publications were spread among army personnel. For example, at the beginning of November, 1918 a daily periodical – «Ukrainian voice» started to be published in Lviv (editor – L. Tsehelskiy, a well-known public and political figure, later Minister of ZUNR). After the downfall of Lviv, «Ukrainian Voice» started its activity in Ternopil being published by famous poet P. Karmansky in spring of 1919, this newspaper became an organ of the National Council [4, 5, 6]. This official organ of the government published first of all orders, notification laws, notes, ads, etc. But since December 8, 1918. in the 15th issue of the periodical the note appeared that «the Ukrainian Voice» changes its field of activity and basically starts to publish private notes and announcements. All responsibility for the issue of the periodical went to the editorial office. However, due to the circumstances the periodical in the seventh issue of the «Ukrainian Voices» from January 23, 1919. Announces that it becomes a «governmental body of the National Council and the District Commissariat», and from the 8th issue of January 24, 1919. «the governmental body of the National Council» [1, p.127]. On May 4, 1919. «Ukrainian Voice» ceases to exist as a newspaper and is transformed into another periodical entitled «Ukrainian News».

Another periodical of high level, which was spread in the army, was the diary of «Republica» – the official organ of the government of ZUNR (it was issued in city of Stanislaviv, February 2 till May 25, 1919). Galician historian – Ivan Krevetskiy [11, p.226] was its editor. Theophilus Kormosh, Bogdan Tchaikovsky, Stepan Vitvitsky, Luts Myshuha, Mykhailo Hrushevsky, S. Siropolko and others participated directly in issuing of this newspaper as well [1, p.128]. Along with the official publications of «Republica», it printed the addresses and appeals of the government, the orders and instructions of the headquarters to the soldiers of UGA, messages from the fronts and lands occupied by the Poles, sketches about the feats of arms of the soldiers, lists of fallen heroes. Alongside with the operational messages from the front «Republica» had printed a lot of materials about the heroic exploits of the soldiers and entire units. Whereas, the army was in many aspects of peasant origin, considerable attention was given to the publication of the Land Act adopted by the National Council [9].

The newspaper «The Ukrainian flag» (editor – an outstanding public and political figure S. Baran.) was also widely spread among Galician servicemen. It was published in 1919-1920. in Vienna. It often contained the patriotic articles written by the political figures of ZUNR, namely by: K. Levitskiy, L. Tsehelskiy, K. Tryliovskiy, V. Shukhevych and others, information about the liberation struggle of the Ukrainians [14]. On November 1, 1919 «The Ukrainian flag» published the memoirs of the first Chairman of the Government of the ZUNR

K.Leviytskiy, articles of V.Shukhevych, P.Karmanskiy, articles about the 1st of November uprising in Lviv, the heroic struggle of the Galicians against the Polish occupation of Ukrainian land.

III. Periodicals of the local District Military Commands

Newspapers, which were published in the region centres, were the official periodicals of state organs, but in the conditions of the war, they, in fact, became the periodicals of the District Military Commands.

The newspaper "Ukraine" was one of the first of such periodicals (November 6, 1918) published in the town of Zhovkva on the basis of publishing house of the Basilian Order of the Greek-Catholic Church. Father Feschak was its editor, subsequently he became the field confessor of the Galician army. In the first issue of it, he published the Appeal of the District Combat Committee to the Ukrainians of Zhovkva district, to take place in the ranks of the Ukrainian army [12]. In every issue of the "Ukraine" he published the messages from the front, orders of the Commandant of the District Military Command, the Captain of the USS – Ivan Kossak (brother of the Commander of the Galician Army, Colonel H.Kossak). Often, through the newspaper, he expressed gratitude to the military units defending against Poles the western borders of Zhovkva District, addressed the military units stationed on its territory and units completed by soldiers from this district [13].

The district newspaper of the National Council in Kolomyia "Pokutskiy Visnyk" ("Pokuttia News") attracts our attention as well. It was published twice a week (editors – J.Navtchuk and O.Karashevych). It fruitfully cooperated with well-known poetess Maria Pidhirianka and famous teacher B.Zaklynskyi, M.Holubets, D.Nykolysyn and others. The editorial board of the newspaper paid special attention to elucidation of the Ukrainian people's struggle for their statehood. The periodical has repeatedly appealed to the population of the Krai (State), to the soldiers of the army with appeals to protect their country from the Polish and Romanian invasion [8]. It published information from the fronts about participation in the battles of Hungarian military formations formed in Pokuttia areas [7].

Newspaper "Berezhany Herald" was also widely spread among infantry servicemen. It, in particular, published the famous speech of the ambassador T.Staruk at the National Council meeting [2]. In this newspaper the letter of A.Staruk, brother of the ambassador T.Staruk, about the persecution and mockery of the Polish authorities over the Ukrainians Lemkos (ethnic group of Ukrainian nation) was published as well [3]. Alongside with the state publications and regional periodicals in the end of 1918 in the Galician army private military press was initiated, which was based on the traditions laid by the journalism of the USS riflemen. [10].

Conclusion

Summarizing the review of military press of UGA and its role in the document-information support of the army servicemen, it is worth noting that during the whole period of the Ukrainian national liberation movement the printed word was a significant factor in the mobilization of Ukrainian people, strengthening of moral and fighting spirit of the riflemen, warrant-officers and army officers. By its activities, the press contributed to strengthening of the ranks of the Galician army, which led the 9-month war for independence of the Republic with a powerful enemy – Poland. In the summer of 1919 it helped the UNR Army to liberate from the Bolsheviks almost all the territory of Ukraine on right bank of the Dnieper River with the capital Kiev. It helped to stubbornly fight against the invasion of Denikin's forces as well.

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