

MAJOR MIECZYŚLAW SŁABY

He was the son of Joseph, a railway worker, and Agnes, whose maiden name was Rebizant. One of his brothers, Francis, was a professional officer in the Polish Army.

After primary school, Mieczysław attended the High School named after Kazimierz Morawski. During his school years he was involved in sport and scouting. Since 30th March 1918, i.e. since the founding of the Scout Sports Club "Watch", until his death in 1948 he had been its active member. For many years together with his brother Francis he played in the football team which in 1924 won the championships of ZHP (Polish Scouts Organisation). From 1920 to 1921 he was a member of the Board of the Club and in 1933 after graduating from medical department at the University of Lwów he became club's voluntary doctor. In 1935, he was called to the army where he took a professional service as a doctor and after some time was promoted to the rank of captain.

He served in the 38. Infantry Regiment of Lwów Shooters in Przemyśl and in the 5. Regiment of Mounted Shooters in Dębica.

On 4th August 1939 he took his responsibilities in the Military Transit Depot in WESTERPLATTE. The medical equipment which he found there was rather poor. Yet he managed to organize a provisional hospital house and medical service. At the time of the defense of Westerplatte he gave the wounded effective assistance even after destroying by bombing his surgical clinic and the loss of the medical supplies. After the capitulation of Westerplatte together with other officers he was placed in the hotel in Gdansk, however, instead to an officer camp (oflag), he was transported to a captive one (stalag) near Królewiec, intended for noncommissioned officers and privates.

In the camp he provided medical assistance to the captives and civilians deported to forced labour.

After some time due to stomach ulcer he was placed in a prison hospital in Königsberg, where he remained until the end of the war.

In 1945 he returned to Przemyśl. As a professional officer he was immediately mobilized with the allocation to the Border Protection Troops. A year later, ie. in 1946 he was promoted to the rank of major . Being in the military he also treated civilian patients as well as those from the School of Economics and in his free time he helped the medical team in the local hospital.

On 1st November 1947 he was arrested by the UB (Security Office) on charges of breach of the military secret - probably was framed for starting and accused of belonging to the organization "Freedom and Independence". For nearly a month he was kept in Przemyśl, and then secretly deported to and imprisoned in the prison at Montelupich Street. Brutally interrogated and deprived of medical care, despite advanced peptic ulcer disease , he died on 15th March 1948 after several weeks of his stay at custody. He was buried without the knowledge and participation of the family at Kraków military cemetery at Prandoty Street. After 42 years since his death (i. e. in 1990), as a result of the rehabilitation proceedings conducted by the Supreme Military Prosecutor, major Mieczysław Słaby was purified of his allegations. Posthumously he was awarded with the SILVER CROSS of the VIRTUTI MILITARI Medal "for his participation in the POLISH DEFENSIVE WAR of 1939".

Memory

- in 1989 at the request of Westerplatte Soldiers Association the Medical School Team in Gdańsk was given the name of Mieczysław Słaby . (now 2017 the school no longer exists)

- 18 May 1991 at "Czuwaj" (Watch) in Przemyśl a ceremony was held of the unveiling of the plaque dedicated to major Słaby and the stadium of "Czuwaj" also received his name. Major's sister, Valerie, and his niece were present at the ceremony.

- The name of major Mieczysław Słaby are also carried by: 69. Przemyśl Scouts Team and streets in Przemyśl, Gdansk, Kraków and Rawicz.

In the feature film "Westerplatte" from 1967 directed by Stanisław Różewicz the character of Mieczysław Słaby played Bogusz Bilewski, and in the movie "The secret of Westerplatte" from 2013 – Piotr Adamczyk