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RIFLEMEN'S TRAINING IN THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF THE «SOKIL» SOCIETIES IN GALICIA ON THE EVE OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Based on the periodicals «Visty z Zaporozha», «Dilo», and «Ilustrovana Ukraina»; documents and publications of the Ukrainian society «Sokil-Batko»; articles and educational-methodological works of Ivan Boberskyi; reports from the Academic Gymnasium in Lviv; photographs and documents from the private archive of Stepan Haiduchok (Lviv); and memoirs of the organizers and members of «Sokil», «Sich», «Zmahovoho Soiuzu», and the sports society «Ukraina», this study highlights the formation and development of the rifle movement in Galicia within the activities of the «Sokil» organization. Particular attention is given to the involvement of S. Haiduchok, S. Horiuk, K. Hutkovskyi, O. Dovbenko, Z. and R. Noskovskyi, Y. Perfetskyi, L. Lepkyi, and other activists in the establishment of riflemen's Sokil centers, procurement of specialized equipment, training of relevant specialists, and organization of shooting competitions.

It has been determined that I. Boberskyi's notes and educational-methodological work «Strilianie do vluchi» (1913) gained wide popularity among the youth. Another of his significant achievements was the development and standardization of shooting terminology. New terms appeared in the vocabulary of young people at the time, including «strilianie do vluchi» (target shooting), «potsilka» (hit), «vlucha» (bullseye), «strilets» (rifleman), «strilytsia» (female rifle shooter), «stepin» (degree), «postava» (stance), and others.

It is concluded that the diligent work of the Sokil leadership contributed to the fact that soon many members of this organization, who had undergone rifle training, actively participated in the anniversary events of Shevchenko's Zdvih in 1914, joined the ranks of the Ukrainian Sich Riflemen Legion, contributed to the development of the Western Ukrainian People's Republic, and fought in the ranks of the Galician Army. The chronological scope of the study covers the years 1912–1914.

Key words: Galicia, Lviv, «Sokil-Batko» Society, «Sokil», military force, rifle movement, shooting training, drills, sports competitions.

With the escalation of the military-political situation in Europe at the beginning of the 20th century, military-applied training was introduced in educational institutions

of Austria-Hungary. For example, at the Academic Gymnasium in Lviv, the «science of shooting» was intensively conducted between 1912 and 1914. Typically, once a week, gymnasium students were trained in shooting under the supervision of professional military instructors and a gymnasium professor. The training program included both theoretical and practical preparation, covering familiarity with weapons, gunpowder, and ammunition, firearm handling rules, and shooting practice (either at the gymnasium or on a small shooting range of an infantry regiment). Notably, on March 21, 1914, 37 students of the Academic Gymnasium participated in such shooting exercises. A photograph from this event has been preserved, depicting Ivan Boberskyi – head of «Sokil-Batko», professor at the Academic Gymnasium, and organizer of the rifle movement – as a spectator and one of the event's organizers (Звіт, с. 46–55; Світлини).

The riflemen's training provided to Ukrainians in gymnasiums did not fully meet the existing demand. Therefore, on the eve of First World War, rifle training actively spread within Ukrainian youth circles in Galicia, particularly in the «Sokil» and «Sich» societies.

On December 16, 1912, an interparty committee convened in Lviv, bringing together Longyn Tshelskyi, Stepan Tomashivskyi, Ivan Boberskyi, Konstantyna Malyska, Ivan Chmola, Mykola Balytskyi, Stepan Haiduchok, Stepan Indyshchevskyi, Roman Dashkevych, and others. The committee discussed the establishment of an organization called the «Ukrainian Riflemen's Society», the development of its charter, the organization of professional military training for Ukrainian youth, and other related issues (Думін, 1936, с. 15). However, due to tactical disagreements, it was not possible to establish a unified governing body to address these issues. As a result, the rifle movement developed in parallel within the «Ukrainian Sich Union» (led by Kyrylo Trylovskyi), «Sokil-Batko» (under Ivan Boberskyi), and several independent centers that were not subordinate to either the «Ukrainian Sich Union» or «Sokil-Batko» (ЦДІАЛУ-2, арк. 1–12; Дашкевич, 1921, с. 56–66; Степанів, 1936, с. 31–32; Трильовський, 1913, с. 142–145).

Ukrainian historiography includes studies by Osy Dumin (Думін, 1936), Stepan Ripetskyi (Ріпецький, 1956), Olena Stepaniv (Степанів, 1930), Oleksandr Demianiuk (Дем'янюк, 2007), and others on the Ukrainian paramilitary movement in Galicia at the beginning of the 20th century. However, there is a lack of specialized research that examines the theory and practice of rifle training within the «Sokil» societies in Galicia on the eve of First World War. In view of this, the present study has been prepared.

The spread of the rifle movement within the Ukrainian gymnastics' society «Sokil» in Galicia was facilitated by the head of «Sokil-Batko», Ivan Boberskyi (who presided from 1908 to 1918), with the support of notable Sokil activists such as Stepan Haiduchok, Sen Horiuk, Klym Hutkovskyi, Oleksandr Dovbenko, Zenon and Roman Noskovskyi, Ludomyr Ohonovskyi, Yevhen Perfetskyi, Lev Lepkyi, and others. In November 1912, in Boryslav, Klym Hutkovskyi and Lev Lepkyi actively promoted rifle training and special exercises, encouraging Ukrainian workers to join. Soon, the rifle club acquired shooting weapons, including three Werndl rifles, one Mannlicher, and two Krötsch rifles (Боберський, 1914, арк. 11 зв.).

Between 1912 and 1914, meticulous preparation took place within the Sokil organization to form a military force for the Ukrainian people in the riflemen's Sokil battalions. This effort was carried out by the Zaporizhzhia Council. Its first meeting took place on December 15, 1912, at the «Sokil-Batko» movement headquarters in Lviv (Запорожська Рада, с. 2–4). A total of 127 participants attended, including 79 representatives

from 32 Sokil districts (1. Lviv, 2. Shchyrets, 3. Horodok, 6. Peremyshliany, 7. Bibrka, 8. Khodoriv, 9. Kaminka-strumyl'ova, 10. Busk, 11. Rava ruska, 12. Zhovkva, 13. Sokal, 14. Peremyshl, 15. Sudova Vyshnia, 18. Tsishaniv, 19. Sambir, 20. Staryi Sambir, 21. Rudky, 27. Dolyna, 28. Zhydachiv, 30. Stanyslaviv, 32. Nadvirna, 33. Kalush, 35. Kolomyia, 39. Chortkiv, 40. Buchach, 42. Ternopil, 43. Zbarazh, 46. Berezhan, 48. Vyshnivchyk, 49. Rohatyn, 51. Bilyi Kamin), as well as delegates from the sports society «Ukraina» and the «Zmahovy soiuz».

During discussions and debates, a Commission for the Union's Charter was established, consisting of I. Kossak from Chortkiv, Voytovych from Sudova Vyshnia, Henrikh Budzynowski from Stanislaviv, Roman Shypaylo from Kolomyia, Ivan Dygdalevych from Ternopil, as well as Ivan Boberskyi, Lonkyn Tsegelskyi, and Stepan Haiduchok from Lviv. The Commission was tasked with developing the draft of the charter, which was printed in the periodical «Visty z Zaporozha» in October 1912 (Ustav-1), and also to conduct negotiations with the «Main Sich Committee» under the leadership of Kyrylo Tryliovskiy regarding the terms of uniting into a single union (Запорожська Рада, с. 3). In the draft of the charter, the goal of the organization was defined as follows: «§ 1. The name of the society is: 'Union of Physical Education, Fire, Physical-Education-Fire, and Sports Societies of Ukrainians "Zaporizhe" in Lviv. § 2. Purpose: The society sets itself the task of stimulating and facilitating the development of physical education, sports, gymnastics, games, and firefighting as means that strengthen the nation physically and mentally, improve its health, strength, beauty, agility, endurance, courage, discipline, and national consciousness. Party-based ambitions, whether political or religious, are excluded. § 3. Headquarters of the society: Lviv; Language: Ukrainian» (Устав-2, с. 8).

With the development of the riflemen's movement in Sokil organizations and the spread of shooting exercises, the issue of purchasing rifles and manufacturing targets (bullseyes) arose. In February 1913, at the initiative of Ivan Boberskyi and at his expense, a thousand copies of the «vlucha for riflemen» or «potsilka» (target) were printed for shooting with rifles (Гайдучок, 1937, с. 37). On the «potsilka» (target), which measured 28,5x22 cm, after the shooting was completed, the date and location of the competition were recorded, along with the shooter's results, which were certified by the signatures of the judges. Ivan Boberskyi also purchased two Belgian rifles of the Comblain system for the Lviv Sokil members at his own expense, so they could practice shooting (Фондова книга, арк. 47). It was also planned to build a «strilnytsia» (shooting range) for training. The leadership of «Sokil-Batko» urged Sokil branches to conduct field exercises and shooting drills (Вправи-1, с. 12; Вправи-2, с. 12). For this, pistols with 6mm caliber ammunition (Flobert rifles), Mannlicher M1895 and Vervent rifles were purchased, and shooting ranges were set up, etc.

The senior officer of the «Sokil-Batko» organization conducted explanatory work regarding the organization of shooting training for Sokil branches on the pages of their newspaper «Visty z Zaporozha». For example, in issue 77–78, dated February 28, 1913, it reads: «The Ministry rejected the Statute of the shooting societies for amendments to some points. It will be approved later. For now, the branches of "S[okil]-Batko]" can practice shooting based on § 5 of their statute. They should buy 6mm pistols (15–50 crowns) and practice shooting at targets indoors. One hundred cartridges cost 1 crown. When the Society arranges a small, well-secured shooting range, they can shoot with such a flobert rifle outdoors. Those who wish to shoot at the Society's range with

larger rifles or carbines must have permission from the local administration and a weapon card (Waffenpass). The shooting range should be arranged like a military one, and the local administration grants the permit for it. Military rifles (carbines) will be available to our societies "S[okil]-B[atko]", when the main command approves the submitted request of "S[okil]-B[atko]", which applies to all branches. Those who wish to buy a Mannlicher rifle will be able to get it for 104 crowns, including the bayonet and strap. When the command approves the request of "S[okil]-B[atko]", the societies will receive a number of military rifles and will be able to learn shooting at military shooting ranges». (Вправи-1, с. 12). In the approved statutes of the «Sokil» societies in Galicia, one of the tasks was to conduct shooting training for members (ІЦІАЛІУ-1, арк. 3, 3 зв., 7).

In 1913, Ivan Boberksyi wrote an educational and methodological guide titled «Strilianie do vluchi» (Боберський, 1913, с. 58–63). In this guide, Ivan Boberksyi provided brief information about weapons, shooting techniques, described the rules of shooting competitions, safety protocols, and more. Each member of the shooting club was expected to learn how to hit the target at distances of 15, 25, 35, 50 meters, and more. Among other things, it was noted: «In the statutes of the "Sokil-Batko" branches, shooting is listed as one of the physical exercises. It is an exercise that sharpens the eye and prepares for defense. ... Every shooting exercise must be conducted under the supervision of the chief or the leader, or their deputies. Shooting with a 6mm flobert pistol does not require a separate permit from the state authorities. If the society wishes to shoot with larger rifles, it must organize a shooting range according to military standards and obtain permission for shooting with rifles» (Боберський, 1913, с. 63).

Ivan Boberksyi developed and unified shooting terminology. Thanks to him, the terms «*strilianie do vluchi*» (target shooting), «*potsilka*» (hit), «*vlucha*» (bullseye), «*strilets*» (rifleman), «*strilytsia*» (female shooter), «*stepin*» (degree), «*postava*» (stance), and others appeared in the vocabulary of Ukrainian youth. In 1914, he planned to publish a more comprehensive work on shooting, but his initiatives were interrupted by the First World War.

On December 27, 1913, the general meeting of the shooting company, which operated under the «Sokil-Batko» society, took place (Загальні збори, с. 12). At the beginning of 1914, the Sokil journal «Visty z Zaporozha» changed its name from «Visty z Zaporozha. Chasopys rukhankovykh, zmahovoikh, mandrivnykh i pozharnykh tovarystv» (Вісти-2) to «Visty z Zaporozha. Rukhanka, Zmah, Pozharnytstvo, Mandryvnytstvo, Plast, Strilectvo» (Вісти-1). As we can see, shooting training took on an important role among other areas of activity within the Sokil organization.

The popularization of shooting among the members of «Sokil», gymnastics, sports, paramilitary societies, and the general public was promoted by shooting competitions called «*strilianie do vluchi*» (shooting to hit). The first one took place on February 10, 1913 (І. стріляє, с. 12), the second on April 19, 1913 (Стріляє, с. 5), the third on November 8, 1913 (ІІІ. нагородне стріляє, с. 6), and the fourth on March 7, 1914 (Четверті, с. 6). The fifth, planned for June 29, 1914, did not take place.

The shooting competitions were held in the gym of «Sokil-Batko» at 20 Ruska Street (Світлини). The constant organizer and head of the judging panel was Ivan Boberenskyi. The best shooters of «Sokil-Batko» in the first «*strilianie do vluchi*» competition were Volodymyr Nedilka (first place), Yuriy Vintkovskyi (second), and Semen Magalyas (third) (І. стріляє, с. 12). Twenty-five shooters from the Lviv organizations «Sokil-Batko»,

«Sokil-III», «Ukraina» and the Academic Gymnasium in Lviv participated in the competition (Гайдучок, 1913, с. 14). By the way, Semen Magalyas (1885–1978) was a Ukrainian public and cultural figure, military, and state official, and a co-founder of the State Secretariat for Military Affairs of the West Ukrainian People's Republic.

As mentioned earlier, since shooting training became an important part of the other activities of the Sokil organization, at the extraordinary general meeting of «Sokil-Batko» on April 25, 1914, in the Sokil gym, a proposal from the chairman, Ivan Boberenskyi, was approved to change the name of the society from a gymnastics society to «Sokil» Gymnastics and Shooting Society (Королик, 1914, с. 2). This change was made due to the fact that, between 1912 and 1914, the organization actively carried out paramilitary training for its members. In May 1914, after extensive discussions and debates, a uniform manual for the shooting battalions under the leadership of «Sokil-Batko» was introduced, as well as regulations for shooting officers (Бабин, 1914а, с. 6; Краска, с. 8; Постанови, с. 7–8).

With the spread of paramilitary training among the members of the Sokil societies in Galicia, many questions arose regarding the organization of shooting. In this regard, in July 1914, the following clarification was published in the journal «Visty z Zaporozha»: «There is no need to establish separate shooting societies because by doing so we divide our forces, our money, and our time. If we have a society like “Sich” or “Sokil”, it should engage in gymnastics, firefighting, scouting, and also shooting. If any “Sich” or “Sokil” wants to expand shooting activities, we remind them that the statute of the “Sokil-Batko” societies has included a paragraph for 20 years stating that the society is engaged in target shooting. According to the law, military authorities can only allow military shooting training to societies that bear the name “Schützenverein”. Therefore, the general assembly of the society must propose an «amendment to the statute and add the word “shooting” to the name of the society. Then, the name would sound like: Shooting and Gymnastics Society “Sich” (“Sokil”) or Shooting, Firefighting, and Gymnastics Society “Sich” (“Sokil”). The article on the society's activities should include “field exercises”, and in the section on the society's salute, the word “shooting range” should be added. These are changes only necessary in relation to military authorities. A society with such a statute will clearly carry the name “Shooting Society” (Schützenverein), and military circles, according to the law, may loan several rifles for training purposes and allow shooting at a military shooting range upon an appropriate written request» (Бабин, 1914b, с. 10).

A significant conclusion to the activities of the shooting squadrons of the «Sokil-Batko» society and Sokil branches was the Shevchenko Rally in Lviv, held from June 27–29, 1914. At the event, 78 members of the «Sokil» society appeared in uniform, and 146 members from the «Sich» society participated (Сова, 2019, с. 252). The «Ukrainian Sich Riflemen» performed exercises with their bare hands, with spears, and rifles. On the spread of paramilitary societies, Sich rifleman Andriy Babiuk wrote: «All over Galicia, our people began establishing “Sich Riflemen” societies – where young boys were taught military drills. Anyone who wanted could join the society. Over the course of a year, 86 such societies were established throughout Galicia, not only in cities but also in villages. Young boys eagerly joined the “Sich Riflemen”, and everyone was even proud to be a member» (Баб'юк, с. 2–3).

Thus, the Ukrainian «Sokil-Batko» society played an essential role in the development and spread of rifle training among the Ukrainians of Lviv and Galicia on the eve of the

First World War. The Sokil branches carried out proper work in creating shooting clubs, procuring equipment and weapons, preparing facilities and open-air ranges, training qualified instructors, and organizing shooting competitions. Ivan Bober's notes and his educational and methodological work «Strilianie do vluchi» (1913) became very popular among the youth. A significant achievement was the development and standardization of shooting terminology, as well as the approval of uniforms. Thanks to the diligent work of the leaders and active members of the «Sokil» societies, all willing members were able to undergo proper rifle training.

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СТРІЛЕЦЬКИЙ ВИШКІЛ У ТЕОРІЇ ТА ПРАКТИЦІ ТОВАРИСТВ «СОКІЛ» У ГАЛИЧИНІ НАПЕРЕДОДНІ ПЕРШОЇ СВІТОВОЇ ВІЙНИ

На основі періодики «Вісти з Запорожа», «Діла», «Ілюстрована Україна»; документів і видань українського товариства «Сокіл-Батько»; статей та навчально-методичних праць І. Боберського; звітів Академічної гімназії у Львові, фотографій та документів із приватного архіву С. Гайдучка (м. Львів); спогадів організаторів і членів «Сокола», «Січі», Змагового союзу, спортивного товариства «Україна» висвітлено становлення та розвиток стрілецького руху в Галичині в контексті діяльності організації «Сокіл». Звернено увагу на участь С. Гайдучка, С. Горука, К. Гутковського, О. Довбенка, З. та Р. Носковських, Є. Перфецького, Л. Лепкого й інших активістів у створенні стрілецьких сокільських осередків, закупівлі спеціального інвентарю, підготовці відповідних фахівців, проведенні спортивних змагань зі стрільби тощо.

З'ясовано, що широкої популярності серед молоді набули замітки та навчально-методична праця І. Боберського «Стріляне до влучі» (1913). Зазначено, що ще одним його досягненням була розробка й уніфікація термінології зі стрільби – у словнику тодішньої молоді з'явилися терміни: «стріляне до влучі», «поцілка», «влуча», «стрілець», «стрілиця», «степінь», «постава» тощо.

Константовано, що сумлінна праця сокільського керівництва сприяла тому, що невдовзі чимало членів цієї організації, які пройшли стрілецький вишкіл, взяли активну участь у ювілейних заходах у межах Шевченківського здвигу 1914 р., поповнили лави Легіону Українських січових стрільців, брали участь у розбудові Західноукраїнської Народної Республіки, воювали в лавах Галицької армії тощо. Хронологічними межами статті визначено 1912–1914 рр.

Ключові слова: Галичина, Львів, товариство «Сокіл-Батько», «Сокіл», мілітарна сила, стрілецький рух, навчання зі стрільби, вишколи, спортивні змагання.