

УДК 355.48(436-89:470)''1914/1915''
94(436-89:470)''1914/1915''

Prof. dr Włodzimierz Borodziej,
Warsaw University, Poland
w.borodziej@uw.edu.pl

Оригинални научни рад
Примљен 04.10.2018.
Прихваћен 11.10.2018.

PhD Maciej Górny,
Institute of History
Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland
gorny@dhi.waw.pl

Stronghold of the Middle Class? Przemyśl in the Great War¹

Abstract: *The article is about the circumstances that ruled during the two long sieges of the Austrian fortress of the town of Przemyśl in Galicia. The fighting around this town is one of the most interesting and extremely challenging phenomena of the 20th century military history. Apart from the military aspect of the sieges performed by the Russian army, the article analyzed the circumstances of conditions of survival of the civilians of all social classes and various ethnic backgrounds. The sieges of the Przemyśl Fortress was observed as an example of total war.*

Key words: First World War, Galicia, Przemyśl, siege, survival of the civilians.

Bloody fights over the Austrian fortress of Przemyśl in Galicia belong to the most captivating phenomena of 20th century military history. The first case of a ‘total war’ as recently claimed by one of the most inspiring historians of the First World War², Przemyśl has much more to offer the historian. As we suggest, social conflicts

¹ This article draws from research for a synthesis of the First World War history in East Central and Southeast Europe published in Polish (*Nasza wojna*, vol. I: *Imperia, 1912–1916*; vol. II: *Narody, 1917–1923*, Warszawa 2014–2018) and in German (*Der vergessene Weltkrieg*, vol. I: *Imperien, 1912–1916*; vol. II: *Nationen, 1917–1923*, Darmstadt 2018)

² Alexander Watson’s (the author of the *Ring of Steel. Germany and Austria-Hungary at War, 1914–1918*, New York 2014) current research project goes in this direction as suggested by his public

accompanied military operations to the extent that they might be seen as an overture of approaching social turmoil. Indeed, what happened within the walls of the *Festung Przemyśl* in certain sense condensed and intensified tensions that rarely achieved such a density in the outside world.

The First Siege

Przemyśl was the largest besieged fortress on the Eastern Front. In September 1914, the Russians tried to take Przemyśl by storm, and when they failed they embarked on a long siege. It was the defenders who then seized the initiative, organizing a total of six sorties from the fortress, all of which were unsuccessful despite the great cost in men. The fortifications at Przemyśl covered an area 45 kilometres in circumference; it had two rings of entrenchments with artillery emplacements and several dozen forts. Located within the fortifications was the town of Przemyśl itself as well as neighbouring villages that had been razed in the autumn of 1914 so as not to impede artillery fire. By mid-September, as a result of the first Russian offensive in Eastern Galicia, Przemyśl was already under siege. In the reasonably well-stocked fortress, the main problem was civilian refugees from local villages. There were scores of them, and the pace of the Russian offensive had prevented civilian evacuations from being carried out in accordance with the defence plans. News of pogroms perpetrated by the Russians prompted many Jews to take refuge in Przemyśl. Some of the inhabitants of the villages razed by the army also remained within the fortress. Without a roof over their head, they camped in fields or in dugouts, relying on help from the authorities and subsisting on last remaining potatoes they had carefully buried. The forefield of the fortress was a sorry sight:

The deserted villages are inhabited by cats that have run wild. Officers often bring in lost children wrapped in coats. Sitting there amidst a rain of shrapnel was a three-year-old boy, all alone, laughing and playing in a field. The soldiers who found him could not get anything out of him, except for the words: ‘Granny, America!’³

The first assault launched by the Bulgarian general in Russian service, Radko Dimitriev, did not succeed, nor could it have done. The Russians had no heavy artillery, and their attempt to quickly capture the well-defended fortress, which housed a personnel of over 100,000, owed much to the reckless ambition of the general. The

presentation under the title ‘The origins of ‘total war’ in the east and the siege of Przemyśl in 1914–15’ at the Imre Kertész Kolleg in Jena, 29 May, 2017.

³ Ehrenburg, Ilka Künigl, *W oblężonym Przemyślu. Kartki z dziennika z czasów Wielkiej Wojny (1914–1915)*, translated by Edward Pietraszek and Anna Szczak, edited by Stanisław Stępień, Przemyśl 2010, p. 104. (further: Ehrenburg, I. K., *W oblężonym Przemyślu...*)

operation was extremely bloody and completely ineffective; it lasted for a week, ending on 9 October after the arrival of a relief force in the form of the 3rd Austro-Hungarian Army. The fortress commander, General Hermann Kusmanek, also ordered his troops to attack; the Russians, attacked from two sides, had to abandon the siege. A Hungarian officer defending the fortress described the harrowing impression that the battle made on him:

As dawn broke, we saw the battlefield, the length and breadth of which was covered in Russian corpses. Not a single shot was to be heard from the Russian side. [...] There were hundreds of Russians dug in along a single line—all dead. Those that were still moving were being taken away by stretcher-bearers. Here and there we saw individual soldiers armed with wire cutters. A dead officer in a fire trench was holding in his hands a precise plan of the fort I/3 and a map of the Byków resistance point. Behind him was a thin line of dug-in gunners. All had perished! It was a terrible sight. In front of the barbed wire itself lay hundreds of bodies, and further back—thousands. We had been diligent in our work. I shall never forget that scene.⁴

One of the Czech defenders of Przemyśl, Jan Vit, remembered a slightly different image from that same day. His attention was focussed more on the living than the dead. The Russian survivors still sitting in the trenches and furrows would sometimes throw their arms around the necks of the Hungarian stretcher-bearers combing the battlefield. The latter, in turn, divided their time between helping the wounded and robbing the dead.⁵

The Second Siege

Although a success for the defenders, the first siege of Przemyśl contained the seeds of future defeat. The relief force was tired and hungry, with many sick and wounded soldiers. It is hard to say whether cholera was brought to the fortress by the Austro-Hungarian soldiers or by the Russian prisoners of war; in any case, at the beginning of October, it became necessary to set up isolation barracks for the afflicted. This was not the only problem to emerge after the arrival of the relief force, however. The army also had to be fed, and the only well-stocked warehouses within easy reach were precisely here in Przemyśl. Since the fortress was temporarily not

⁴ Cited in: Bator, Juliusz, *Wojna galicyjska. Działania armii austro-węgierskiej na froncie północnym (galicyjskim) w latach 1914–1915*, Kraków 2005, p. 197.

⁵ Vit, Jan, *Wspomnienia z mojego pobytu w Przemyślu podczas rosyjskiego oblężenia 1914–1915*, translated by Ladislav Hofbauer and Jerzy Husar, edited by Stanisław Stępień, Przemyśl 1995, p. 53. (further: Vit, J., *Wspomnienia z mojego...*)

in danger, and to the east of it fighting was still ongoing, it was decided that some of the personnel and equipment, mainly heavy artillery, would be merged with the 3rd Army. The shortages of food, men, and equipment could have been made good were it not for the rapid failure of the Austro-Hungarian offensive and the chaotic retreat across the San River. At the beginning of November, Przemyśl once again found itself under siege, this time for a longer period.

The Russians had learned the lessons of their first unsuccessful assault. This time they restricted themselves to blockading the fortress and shelling it with artillery. Russian planes also flew over Przemyśl in an attempt to bomb the food stores. Although this failed, provisioning soon became the most pressing problem for the personnel and civilians within the fortress regardless. The prices of goods began to rise exponentially. In November, a loaf of bread cost twice as much as before the war, salt was five times more expensive, and some goods (such as butter) had completely run out. In January, the landlady of a tenement house, Helena Jabłońska née Seifert, noted: 'The hunger is unprecedented; the masses that have come here, by what means one does not know, are principally Jews from the vicinity of L'viv [...]. The faces on the streets are completely foreign. Some suffer from terrible hunger; they have blackened and dehydrated.'⁶ By February, the problem was not so much high prices as simply the lack of goods on offer. Hungry soldiers and civilians fought over horse bones thrown out of soup kitchens. The price of an egg surpassed 1 crown, that is, twenty times the pre-war price.

The food rations issued to personnel, and from the end of January to early March also to starving civilians, got ever-smaller. Beginning in December, one day in the week was designated as a no-bread day. People started to capture cats and crows for food, and in the army positions around the town, officers used their patrols to hunt for deer and hare. Finally, General Kusmanek took the decision to slaughter many of the horses, which had numbered around 20,000 at the beginning of the siege. This was a desperate measure as it significantly reduced the chances of being able to break out of the fortress into friendly territory. Without horses it was impossible to transport food, artillery, and sick and wounded people. The provisioning improved, but only for a brief period.

It was not just food that was in short supply. The bitterly cold winter of 1914/1915 presented a huge challenge for soldiers in the field, especially as the personnel was not prepared for it. Most soldiers had received their uniforms when mobilizing for the August offensive, and the warm overcoats had never reached them. The shortages were remedied by whatever means possible:

⁶ Jabłońska, Helena z Seifertów, *Dziennik z oblężonego Przemyśla 1914–1915*, edited by Hanna Imbs, Przemyśl 1994, p. 112. (further: Jabłońska, H. z S., *Dziennik z oblężonego Przemyśla...*)

The uniforms one sees on the streets today are so lax. Gone are the days when every half hour a soldier would be reprimanded by his superior for having a cap or collar that was askew or for marching too slowly. [...] All the warm underwear in the fortress has long since been bought up. [...] The officers return to the forts on peasant carts, on which they sit wrapped in chequered shawls. Others [...] are dressed in mottled black-and-white oilcloths of the kind that are used to cover tables—they buy them and convert them into raincoats.⁷

The military headquarters organized workshops where products in shortest supply were manufactured from what was still available. Collections of secondary raw materials were enthusiastically promoted. The knapsacks of *Landsturm* soldiers were used to produce warm vests; wood was combined with prepared rags to create the soles of shoes; and completely non-regulation straw slippers appeared. Throughout the siege, soap factories and distilleries worked around the clock. Rum and vodka never ran out. The military commanders tried to infect the personnel with enthusiasm. They triumphantly announced, for instance, that it would be possible to feed the surviving horses with specially prepared shavings, which were also added to bread. In a similar tone, they proclaimed that one portion of vegetables would be replaced with sugar beet. Both these orders had to be quietly withdrawn; their only (relatively) positive effect was to increase the supply of meat from slaughtered horses, since the latter could not stomach the new diet.

The Social Ladder

The hardships of the siege were not the same for everyone. A very rigid social hierarchy held sway within the fortress. At the bottom of it were civilians—Ruthenian peasants from villages near Przemyśl. As well as suffering from hunger, they also fell victim to the spy craze. Already during the first siege, several lynchings of alleged ‘Russophiles’, including a number of women, took place on the streets of the town. One of the most tragic incidents took place in September 1914. Helena Jabłońska née Seifert gave a second-hand account of it in her diary:

At around 5.00 p.m. a transport of Russophiles was rushed off to the station: 46 people, including 7 women from the semi-intelligentsia. [...] One young woman pulled out a revolver and shot a dragoon. They were all immediately attacked—with sabres, axes, sticks, and fists. Next came the lumberjacks carrying tree logs. They crushed the Russophiles so badly that bits of their brains bespattered the passers-by,

⁷ Ehrenburg, I. K., *W oblężonym Przemyślu...*, pp. 123–124.

and their blood splashed onto the walls and onto the people watching. All that was left were chunks of steaming and twitching flesh.⁸

Although the macabre nature of this scene makes it hard to believe that this was the exact course of events, in all likelihood the reality was not far removed from Jabłońska's story. The Supreme Ukrainian Council, which comprised pro-Austrian politicians and which acted as patron to the Ukrainian Sich Riflemen, referred to the same event in a memorandum addressed to the commanders of the armed forces. In this document, the theatre of cruelty was replaced with dry facts. According to this account, 45 people from the village of Volytsia among them a daughter of a Greek Catholic priest, were arrested on a charge of 'Russophilia'. As they were led through the streets of Przemyśl, they were attacked by a crowd of locals. The police did not intervene. At a certain point, a nearby unit of Royal Hungarian Hussars entered the fray. They attacked the villagers on Bociania Street and cut them to pieces with their sabres. Only three people survived; the priest's daughter was not among them.⁹

Later, it was members of this social group who were often brought before a court martial, which would sentence them to death for alleged espionage or, in some cases even, for 'defeatism'. The failure of every poorly-prepared sortie from the fortress was attributed to treason. Rumours about maps of the Przemyśl fortifications having been found on the corpses of Russian officers only reinforced these suspicions, yet no one asked themselves how a Ukrainian peasant could have come into the possession of such documents. After all, emaciated and starving civilians had no information of any great military significance; if they did, they would have in all likelihood happily sold it for food and shelter. Some starving refugees did indeed shuttle between the Russian and Austrian positions, offering to one or the other side information about the enemy, some of it imaginary, and demanding food in return. The value of these 'confidants' was directly proportional to the remuneration they received.

The situation of Jewish refugees was hardly better than that of the Ruthenians. They constituted the majority of the victims of Russian aerial bombardment, which testifies to their numbers. The problem, which for many religious Jews acquired an existential importance, concerned food. Over time, horsemeat, which was not considered kosher, became the mainstay of the diet within the fortress. The choice between starvation and failing to observe religious rules was a dramatic one. Uniquely, however, Jews did not raise any suspicions among the Austro-Hungarian military authorities, who saw them as loyal subjects. On the other hand, the prospects for

⁸ Jabłońska, H. z S., *Dziennik z oblężonego Przemyśla...*, p. 43.

⁹ 'Präsidium des Allg. Ukr. N-rates an das k. u. k. AOK: Denkschrift über die Verhaftungen und Hinrichtungen zahlreicher österreichischer Ukrainer auf Grund bewußt falscher Informationen, Wien, 18 VI 1915', in: *Ereignisse in der Ukraine 1914–1922, deren Bedeutung und historische Hintergründe*, edited by Theophil Hornykiewicz, vol. 1, Philadelphia 1966, pp. 26–39, quot. p. 30.

Jews in the event of fortress capitulating were very bleak. Their fears were confirmed shortly after the Russians occupied Przemyśl:

The pogrom of the Jews started today, or rather last night. They waited until the Jews had gone to pray at the synagogue. There the Cossacks attacked them with whips. With no questions asked, and irrespective of age, they drove them from their synagogues and communities, from the streets and from the thresholds of their homes, towards the huge barracks in Bakończyce. [...] The old and weak who could not keep up were whipped. [...] Such weeping, such despair! Some have hidden in cellars, but the Cossacks will seek them out there too.¹⁰

In the meantime, the siege was still in progress. The situation of soldiers was hardly better than that of the Jewish refugees. Although they received food rations throughout the siege, these were starvation rations. 'Marauders' and the sick and wounded were fed so poorly that they were forced to beg. The troops that remained in their posts were fed slightly better, but nonetheless inadequately. Weak and malnourished, soldiers died of exposure, lost their hands and feet to frostbite, and fainted on duty. The Ruthenians in the Landwehr, who found it easiest to communicate with the besiegers, deserted *en masse* due to hunger. The civilians who remained in the fortress coped in different ways. Their situation depended on their assets, their arrangements with the army, and on what supplies they had. As the latter ran out, the number of prostitutes in the fortress rapidly increased. A good way of ensuring modest but regular meals was to work in the military hospital as a nurse. Memoirists recall that in certain hospitals in Przemyśl there was such a surfeit of nurses that, with the best will in the world, some of them had nothing to do.

It was characteristic of the Austro-Hungarian army that the command hierarchy was maintained even under the most dramatic circumstances. This was also the case in Przemyśl. Whereas rank-and-file soldiers froze while standing guard, and patrols were led by sergeants, officers had their own canteens; it was they who formed the 'middle class' in the besieged fortress. Although they complained about the increasingly meagre portions, and especially about the monotony of the cuisine, which alternated between horse sirloin, horse tongue, and horse roast, they did not starve. Yet even the officers were indignant at the behaviour of Commander Kusmanek. One officer in the Royal Hungarian Honvéd, whose memoirs were discovered in the 1960s during the renovation of a Przemyśl tenement house, grumbled:

Kusmanek's behaviour towards the army is completely inappropriate. Instead of looking after the unit, he strolls around checking how the men salute. Not once has he visited a hospital, and he would certainly have much to see there. We have

¹⁰ Jabłońska, H. z S., *Dziennik z oblężonego Przemyśla...*, p. 162.

huge numbers fatalities due to the careless dressing of wounds and botched operations. Hygiene standards are inadequate, and consequently every third patient that goes under the knife dies of blood infection. [...] We have received news that only thirty horses will remain in the division. Naturally, his excellency will keep all of them, and indeed purchase a further two, so that his whore can go on excursions in a carriage. Meanwhile, our own horses will be slaughtered for food.¹¹

The criticism of the commanding officer might have been less harsh had he not been so eager to organize sorties from the fortress that were as pointless as they were bloody. Only one of them had aimed to break the siege and link up with the relief force that was headed for Przemyśl. The other sorties had sought to improve the strategic situation, tie up Russian forces that would otherwise be sent to another section of the front, and ultimately keep up the defenders' 'fighting spirit', if nothing else. The final sortie took place on 19 March. Kusmanek decided to advance not to the west or south, but to the east, towards the Russian food stores in Mościska. His hungry soldiers were given several days' worth of rations. The plan was to attack with bayonets under the cover of the night, hence all cartridges were confiscated to ensure that no shots would warn the enemy of the assault. The effect was pitiful. Those who managed to reach the Russian positions were discovered in time and decimated. But many soldiers did not even get that far. The more disciplined men fainted from hunger, since they had obeyed the order not to touch the canned food they had been given for the journey. Those who had disobeyed the order likewise floundered, because eating a large portion of canned horsemeat caused diarrhoea. The return to the fortress was all the more melancholy when the men discovered that their quarters had been thoroughly looted. As the Czech officer Jan Vit recalled: 'The civilians, thinking we would never return, robbed us of everything. They took whatever could be removed—bedding, straw mattresses, stoves—and looted the stores.'¹² Even to Kusmanek, further resistance made no sense. On the first day of spring, he took the decision to destroy the forts, cannons, and magazines. This was probably the biggest pyrotechnic display in the history of Galicia:

At 3.00 a.m. the police were sent to all areas of the town to wake up the inhabitants and warn them of the noise and commotion that was about to begin. Both powder magazines, three bridges, and the railway workshops were to be blown up at 5.00 a.m. We stood in front of the gate. Crowds of people carrying trunks, bundles, and children were running terrified along our street and along Słowackiego street, their eyes wide with fear. [...] Shivering with cold, we waited until 5.00 a.m. [...] Then, suddenly, with a terrifying bang, the first powder magazine was detonated; the earth shook and many windows were blown out. Soot and ash spewed from the

¹¹ Cited in: Kroh, Antoni, *O Szwejku i o nas*, Nowy Sącz 1992, p. 91.

¹² Vit, J., *Wspomnienia z mojego...*, p. 84.

chimneys, dust cascaded from the walls, and pieces of plaster fell from the ceilings. Doors flew open. A moment later there was a second bang, with the same effect. [...] Soldiers knelt on the balconies in prayer.¹³

Przemyśl capitulated on 22 March 1915. More than 100,000 defenders ended up in Russian captivity. The Russians gained 900 guns—including the heaviest guns, which they had hitherto never owned—and plenty of other equipment. Austria-Hungary had to say farewell to its largest fortress on the Russian border. Russia, in turn, could redirect its 11th Army to the bloody battlefields of the Carpathian Mountains. The defeat of the monarchy now seemed certain.

New Order

Typically, the arrival of the front was associated with a crisis in public order. The disappearance of authority triggered rapacious and thuggish instincts even in people who in other circumstances would have probably never come into conflict with the law. Indeed, the disturbance of public order had a deeper, social dimension. In places where power changed hands, in moments of transition, the order and norms hitherto observed in the local community sometimes broke down. This phenomenon was most evident on the Eastern Front. Were it not an anachronism, one could say that the Russian army that entered Eastern Galicia in 1914, six years before the Bolshevik offensive, unleashed a class struggle in the region. The sides in this struggle were the cities and the countryside, the middle class and the lower strata. The Russian invasion signalled the triumph of the peasantry over the bourgeoisie, especially the Jewish bourgeoisie. For Helena Jabłońska née Seifert, Przemyśl under Russian occupation became a completely different town:

The character of the town has changed so much that one would not recognize it as Przemyśl. The morning market and the town square are filled with Ruthenian [Ukrainian] carts and peddlers. All commerce is now in their hands and in the hands of tradeswomen from the countryside. Sitting on their stools or on their carts, they sell lard and sausage. Soap, halva, and all manner of confectionary can be bought everywhere. There are saltwater fish of all sizes and species, canned fish, various cheeses, and masses of white eggs sold at 40 hellers per 7 items. Bread is extremely expensive. All the shops, except for the Ruthenian ones, are closed—nothing to be had there.¹⁴

¹³ Jabłońska, H. z S., *Dziennik z oblężonego Przemyśla...*, p. 139.

¹⁴ Jabłońska, H. z S., *Dziennik z oblężonego Przemyśla...*, p. 171.

What Jabłońska, the Przemyśl landlady, found so surprising was not just the improvement in food supplies (it would have been indeed strange had more food not been available after the end of the siege). She was also struck by the fact that the *Ruscy* (i.e. Ukrainian) peddlers had taken on a role that others had previously performed:

Who lives in tenement houses these days? Caretakers and peasants. So duped have the peasants been by the Muscovites that they have occupied the houses by force. [...] They sit around on the balconies and sleep on Jewish bed linen. To be sure, there is no shortage of comical scenes. For instance, a plump peasant woman in church dressed in a deep-cut ball gown over a coarse smock, wearing a bead necklace and sporting a corset ripped at the waist with percale gusset, and other similar scenes.¹⁵

Sometimes both the ‘class struggle’ and anti-Semitism assumed a much more dangerous form. In August 1914, in Bychawa near Lublin, a town famous for its Talmudic school, many of the mostly Jewish inhabitants decided to flee before the approaching Austrians. As they headed north, they were pelted with stones by local peasants and then attacked and robbed by the Cossacks. Immediately after the withdrawal of the Austro-Hungarian troops, those Jews who had remained in the town fell victim to a Russian pogrom. The Russian gendarmerie, which investigated the events in Bychawa, arrested a dozen or so Jews, finding them guilty of rioting and disloyalty;¹⁶ the local peasants got off scot-free.

In Galicia, too, there was no doubt which side the Russians were on. Although not Jewish herself, Helena Jabłońska née Seifert felt, not without reason, that she too was a victim of this conflict:

It is unbelievable what those Muscovites have done to make the people rebel. They have presented caretakers and their cooks with formal, officially stamped documents that transfer the ownership of tenement houses to them. Today, when one of the owners returned, the caretakers, on the basis of a Russian document, did not want to let her in to her own property. The matter was solved by the police [the Austro-Hungarian police, following the Gorlice Offensive and the recapture of Przemyśl by the Habsburg monarchy] and the caretakers turned the apartment into a detention room.¹⁷

Przemyśl was but one of the towns under Russian occupation. Similar mechanism consisting of accelerating local conflicts, anti-Semitism and ‘class hatred’ were at work in other places, too. They suggest that some elements of the ‘great change’

¹⁵ Jabłońska, H. z S., *Dziennik z oblężonego Przemyśla...*, p. 190.

¹⁶ Zieliński, Konrad, *Żydzi Lubelszczyzny 1914–1918*, Lublin 1999, p. 79.

¹⁷ Jabłońska, H. z S., *Dziennik z oblężonego Przemyśla...*, p. 213.

appeared even prior to the demise of the empires. Some parts East Central Europe had its social bonds loosened and social capital seriously diminished as early as 1915, a development that has been typically associated with the so called second half of the Great War (that is approximately since 1917). Meanwhile, in reference to Przemyśl under the Russian occupation one could repeat Péter Hanák's conclusion from his brilliant analysis of wartime correspondence in Hungary:

Plebeians against patricians, workers against capitalists, the people against their masters. In the course of four years these basic categories of popular attitude underwent fundamental change. The war disrupted the natural and social order, and destroyed its rhythm of production; it made even a minimal level of existence precarious, accentuated the contrast between rich and poor through new and savage injustices, and provoked to rebellion even those who had been resigned to the traditional oppression of the social order in time of peace. War decimated harvest and men alike, and sowed only the seeds of hatred.¹⁸

Sources and literature

Bator, Juliusz, *Wojna galicyjska. Działania armii austro-węgierskiej na froncie północnym (galicyjskim) w latach 1914–1915*, Kraków 2005.

Ehrenburg, Ilka Künigl, *W oblężonym Przemyślu. Kartki z dziennika z czasów Wielkiej Wojny (1914–1915)*, translated by Edward Pietraszek and Anna Szczak, edited by Stanisław Stepień, Przemyśl 2010.

Ereignisse in der Ukraine 1914–1922, deren Bedeutung und historische Hintergründe, edited by Theophil Hornykiewicz, vol. 1, Philadelphia 1966.

Hanák, Péter, *The Garden and the Workshop. Essays on the Cultural History of Vienna and Budapest*, Princeton 1988.

Jabłońska, Helena z Seifertów, *Dziennik z oblężonego Przemyśla 1914–1915*, edited by Hanna Imbs, Przemyśl 1994.

Kroh, Antoni, *O Szwajku i o nas*, Nowy Sącz 1992.

Vit, Jan, *Wspomnienia z mojego pobytu w Przemyślu podczas rosyjskiego oblężenia 1914–1915*, translated by Ladislav Hofbauer and Jerzy Husar, edited by Stanisław Stepień, Przemyśl 1995.

Zieliński, Konrad, *Żydzi Lubelszczyzny 1914–1918*, Lublin 1999.

¹⁸ Hanák, Péter, *The Garden and the Workshop. Essays on the Cultural History of Vienna and Budapest*, Princeton 1988, pp. 211–212.

Резиме

Др Влодимир Борођеј, др Маћеј Горни

Упориште средње класе? Пшемисл у Великом рату

Аустроугарска тврђава Пшемисл у Галицији нашла се у два маха, током Првог светског рата, на удару руске армије која је највеће град-утврђење на Источном фронту у покушајима да га заузме подвргла дуготрајним опсадама. Поред великог гарнизона, у Пшемислу се налазио и велики број цивила, који су током дугих месеци опсаде били посебно изложени тегобама које је она донела. Позивајући се на разноврсну грађу, првенствено дневнике, писма, сећања становника Пшемисла различитог социјалног, етничког и религијског порекла, аутори анализирају утицаје које је опсада имала на драматичне промене њихове свакодневнице, посебно све већа оскудица у храни, лековима, као и психолошко стање због дуготрајног живота десетина хиљада људи затворених унутар зидина тврђаве и подвргаваних како спољашњем притиску (напади руске армије), тако и ономе који је настао услед ванредних околности у Пшемислу, присуства преко 100.000 војника, али и хиљада избеглица, првенствено русинских и украјинских сељака из околине чија су села страдала у борбама.

Аутори указују на чињеницу да опсада није у истој мери утицала на све становнике Пшемисла: припадници виших друштвених слојева били су мање изложени ратним невољама од оних са дна социјалне лествице. Оптужбе аустријских власти за шпијунирање у корист Русије, дефетизам и слично, погађале су, са најрадикалнијим исходом пред преким војним судовима, пре свега припаднике нижих друштвених слојева и „сумњивог“ етничког порекла (Русини, Украјинци). Руска опсада довела је до пада Пшемисла 22. марта 1915, и његове окупације. У руско заробљеништво је одведено око 100.000 аустроугарских војника, његових бранилаца.