

Unknown Documents Related to Gen. Waław Scaevola-Wieczorkiewicz from the World War II Period

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Abstract: Gen. Waław Scaevola-Wieczorkiewicz was renowned for his commanding abilities, courage and conscientious character since the days of the legions. This caused him to quickly climb the military career ladder in the Second Republic. During this time, he acquired practical and theoretical experience, which earned him the general's rank in 1927. He served longest in the military unit in Jarosław (1926–1935), to spend the last years before the outbreak of war at DOK (Corps District Command) number X in Przemyśl as its commander. During World War II (after the Polish campaign) he emigrated, thus beginning his soldier-refugee life. Among other places, he stayed in France (where he was assigned in the Chief Commander's Training Inspectorate) and then in Switzerland, where he remained after the war until his death in 1969. This publication presents two hitherto unknown documents created during World War II, which concerned the person of Gen. W. Scaevola-Wieczorkiewicz. According to them, he was accused of abusing his authority as an officer in the construction of his own house in Rozwadów, near Stalowa Wola, and had to clarify the matter. This was important, since at that time several institutions were established in exile that sought and collected information that could later become the basis for lawsuits, especially against those associated with the pre-war Sanation. Those undoubtedly included Gen. W. Scaevola-Wieczorkiewicz. Presumably, the so-called "strong evidence" could not be collected, as Gen. Scaevola-Wieczorkiewicz did not appear in court as a defendant. Nonetheless, these two documents show, on the one hand, a meticulous effort to hold the previous power camp accountable and to remove it from any real influence on Polish refugee state policy, and on the other, they make clear the multifaceted nature of the potential allegations that could have formed the basis for an indictment.

Keywords: Gen. Scaevola-Wieczorkiewicz, Registration Office of the Ministry of Military Affairs, World War II

The figure of General Waław Scaevola-Wieczorkiewicz is fairly well known in Polish military historiography. His story lived to see one biography by Jerzy Majka,¹ dictionary² and publishing-type biographies.³ He is not as widely recognized Piłsudski-era Polish

¹ See: Jerzy Majka, *General brygady Waław Scaevola-Wieczorkiewicz 1890–1969. Krótka biografia wojskowa* (Rzeszów: Wydawnictwo Libra PL, 2018), 98.

² Piotr Stawicki, *Słownik biograficzny generałów Wojska Polskiego 1918–1939* (Warsaw: Bellona, 1994), 347–8; Tadeusz Kryśka-Karski and Stanisław Żurkowski, *Generałowie Polski Niepodległej* (Warsaw: Edicions Spotkania, 1991), 160.

³ Władysław Mądziak, "Waław Scaevola-Wieczorkiewicz. Zapomniany generał," *Powisłe Lubelskie*, no. 2 (2017): 2–5.

Army general as Edward Rydz-Śmigły or Gustaw Orlicz-Dreszer, but his career until September 1939 seems similar to most of them. W. Wiczorkiewicz (born on June 25, 1890) was active in the Riflemen's Association, then served in the Polish Legions.⁴ One of his most spectacular feats was his steadfast attitude in the Battle of Marcinkowice (December 5–6, 1914), where he and his company “persevered for the longest time at the most threatening point under the crossfire of artillery and machine guns.”⁵

In the Second Republic of Poland he was permanently associated with the Polish Army, gaining successive officer ranks, including major in 1918 and colonel in 1920. After his studies at France's *École supérieure de guerre*, and later already in Poland at the *Wyższa Szkoła Wojskowa* Military Academy (1924–1927),⁶ he received his general's medals. From May 1926 to October 1935, he was commander of the 24th Infantry Division stationed in Jarosław. He sometimes combined his official duties with political tasks, for example, during the 1930 parliamentary election campaign (the so-called Brest elections), he took part in an informal meeting of senior officers to determine electoral tactics, where he “stressed the need to give starosts clear and decisive instructions, which have so far been lacking. These are people [as allegedly claimed by Gen. Scaevola-Wieczorkiewicz] brought up in the Austrian school and administrative discipline, who, given the dispositions, will carry out the elections.”⁷ Since October 1935, he took command of the District Corps number X in Przemyśl, which he held until 1939. Despite the earlier positive service opinions he received from his superiors, for example, in 1930 from General Andrzej Galica,⁸ there were also less favorable ones related to, among other things, the possibility of commanding an operational group at DOK X.⁹

⁴ His person is mentioned in the Legions' memoirs – see: Tadeusz Furgalski 'Wyrwa', *Dziennik 1913–1916*, ed. Piotr Cichoracki (Kraków: Księgarnia Akademicka, Fundacja Centrum Dokumentacji Czynu Niepodległościowego, 2011), 87, 167; Roman Starzyński, *Cztery lata wojny w służbie Komendanta. Przejścia wojenne 1914–1918* (Warsaw: Wydawnictwo Tetragon, Instytut Wydawniczy Erica, 2012), 68, 393.

⁵ Józef Piłsudski, *Pisma zbiorowe*, vol. 4 (Warsaw: Instytut Józefa Piłsudskiego Poświęcony Badaniu Najnowszej Historii Polski, 1937), 343.

⁶ See: Piotr Stawewski, *Generalowie Polscy. Zarys portretu zbiorowego 1776–1945* (Warsaw: Oficyna Wydawnicza ASPRA-JR: Bellona, 2010), 90; Andrzej Wojtaszak, *Generalicja Wojska Polskiego w latach 1935–1939 (analiza grupy funkcjonalno-dyspozycyjnej)* (Szczecin: Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Szczecińskiego, 2018), 69.

⁷ Kordian Józef Zamorski, *Dzienniki (1930–1938)*, eds. Robert Litwiński and Marek Sioma (Warsaw: Instytut Józefa Piłsudskiego; Łomianki: Wydawnictwo LTW, 2011), 50 (entry made on 28 September 1930).

⁸ Majka, *General brygady Waclaw Scaevola-Wieczorkiewicz*, 46.

⁹ Such doubts were raised by Colonel Stefan “Grot” Rowecki, evaluating General Scaevola-Wieczorkiewicz as follows: “meticulous, detail-oriented, probably without a broader operational horizon. I doubt that he can handle commanding an operational group, more of an administrative commander type without much ability. He would be best suited for representative functions, such as the head of the President's military office.” – Wojtaszak, *Generalicja Wojska Polskiego*, 144.

Shortly before the outbreak of World War II, General Scaevola-Wieczorkiewicz, while still remaining head of DOK X in Przemyśl, was appointed commander of the “Kraków” and “Carpathian” military districts. During the Polish campaign, he was given the opportunity to fully prove himself on the battlefield, as by a directive from the Commander-in-Chief had to withdraw with his unit to Hungary.¹⁰ The poor flow of information about this order caused anger and consternation among some of his subordinates. This is how it was recalled by Gen. Jan Chmurowicz:¹¹ “The intended departure of Gen. Wieczorkiewicz along with his staff was simply a blow to me [...] I pondered [...] the issue of Gen. Wieczorkiewicz’s withdrawal, but I could not find a solution to the puzzle.”¹²

After crossing the Polish-Hungarian border, Gen. W. Scaevola-Wieczorkiewicz made his way through Yugoslavia and Italy to France. There, he was assigned to the Commander-in-Chief’s Training Inspectorate. After France’s defeat to Germany (June 1940), he remained on the Seine, where he became involved in resistance activities in the Vichy state. In August 1943 he moved to Switzerland, from where in the post-war years he actively participated in the political and social life of the Polish emigration, for example, on November 27, 1962 he spoke at the unveiling ceremony of the monument to General Langiewicz in Grenchen¹³ or during the last day of the proceedings of the First World Congress of “Fighting Poland” (May 21, 1966).¹⁴

Gen. W. Scaevola-Wieczorkiewicz died on December 7, 1969 in Geneva. He was buried in the St. Joseph’s cemetery in the same city.

After briefly presenting the figure of the protagonist of the following documents, it is worthwhile to introduce their location and characteristics. Both are deposited in the Polish Institute and Gen. W. Sikorski Museum in London, in a fond: Ministry of Justice. Commission established in connection with the outcome of the 1939 Military Campaign (ref. A.20.5) in file no. 36 named: *Akta podlegające skierowaniu do Wojskowego Trybunału Orzekającego 1939–1940* (Eng. *Files Subject to Referral to the Military Tribunal 1939–1940*).

Document 1 is a one-page typescript signed by Gen. Izydor Modelski, while Document 2 is a three-page response to the letter (i.e., Document 1) handwritten and signed

¹⁰ Tadeusz Jurga, *Obrona Polski 1939* (Warsaw: Pax, 1990), 668–9.

¹¹ In September 1939, Gen. J. Chmurowicz served as deputy of Corps District No X and commander of the Defence of Przemyśl.

¹² [Jan Chmurowicz], *Artylerzysta Piłsudskiego. Wspomnienia gen. Jana Chmurowicza*, ed. Krzysztof Drozdowski (Warsaw: Agencja Wydawnicza CB, 2019), 104.

¹³ Janusz Rakowski, “Szwajcaria,” in *Akcja niepodległościowa na terenie międzynarodowym 1945–1990*, ed. Tomasz Piesakowski (London: Polskie Towarzystwo Naukowe na Obczyźnie, 1999), 412–3.

¹⁴ Artur Rynkiewicz, “Światowe Zjazdy Wolnych Polaków,” in *Kierownictwo obozu niepodległościowego na obczyźnie 1945–1990 (Materiały do dziejów uchodźstwa niepodległościowego 1945–1990, vol. III)*, ed. Aleksander Szkuta (London: Polskie Towarzystwo Naukowe na Obczyźnie, 1996), 568–9.

by Gen. W. Scaevola-Wieczorkiewicz. These are unknown sources, i.e., not in scholarly circulation, which supplement both the biography of Gen. Scaevola-Wieczorkiewicz and the activities of the so-called Registration Bureau of the Ministry of the Army.¹⁵ The latter included several bodies¹⁶ collecting so-called “dirt” on former Sanation members associated with the administrative or military (especially officers) community. Although their powers were heavily duplicated,¹⁷ they constituted, together with the Military Adjudication Tribunal [hereinafter: WTO]¹⁸ and the Officers’ Courts of Honour,¹⁹ a smoothly functioning machine “excluding” from the officer corps those suspected of ties to the Sanation or of dishonorable acts.

The Registration Bureau of the Ministry of the Army, under the direction of Colonel Izydor Modelski (from May 4, 1940, with the rank of brigadier general), was very active from its inception in “investigating the behaviour and activities of officers in the interwar period and during the September campaign.”²⁰ The overzealousness of its head in seeking out and collecting all evidence of the guilt of persons connected with the pre-war system

¹⁵ See: Józef Smoliński, *Polskie władze państwowe i wojskowe na uchodźstwie* (Warsaw: Oddział Edukacji Obywatelskiej, KONJAN, 1999), 55–6; Jerzy Łunkiewicz, “Naczelne Władze Polskich Sił Zbrojnych na Obczyźnie w latach 1939–1945,” *Bellona* (London), no. 2–3 (1957): 43. For more on the establishment of the Registration Bureau, see: Marcin Kwiecień, *Wśród potępięczych swarów. Prawne aspekty rozliczeń politycznych wśród uchodźstwa polskiego we Francji i Wielkiej Brytanii 1939–1943* (Kraków: Księgarnia Akademicka, 2013), 159–68.

¹⁶ These were: 1) General Józef Haller’s Commission – This refers to the so-called Registration Commission, which was established on 10 October 1939, and its tasks focused on collecting “[...] comprehensive information, materials and documents, relating to the course of recent events in Poland and the determination of their causes” – see: “Obwieszczenie z dn. 15 XI 1939 r. w sprawie Komisji Rejestracyjnej,” *Monitor Polski* 1939, no. 252–257, 16 November; and 2) Commission in connection with the outcome of the 1939 war campaign – see: “Decree of the President of the Republic of Poland dated 30 May 1940 on the establishment of a Commission in connection with the outcome of the 1939 war campaign,” *Dziennik Ustaw RP* 1940 (Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland, hereinafter ‘Dz. U. RP’), no. 10, pos. 27. For more on this Commission, see: Kwiecień, *Wśród potępięczych swarów*, 241–72.

¹⁷ This included Gen. Haller’s Commission and the Registration Bureau of the Ministry of the Army – see: Stanisław Schimitzek, *Na krawędzi Europy. Wspomnienia portugalskie 1939–1946* (Warsaw: PWN, 1970), 105.

¹⁸ The Military Tribunal was established “for the consideration of charges, brought against officers in connection with their activities during the 1939 war campaign, in particular, charges of abandonment of their unit, neglect of duties as commander, misappropriation of war equipment, misappropriation of state property, and to determine the degree of their responsibility in this regard.” – “Decree of the President of the Republic of Poland dated 30 November 1939 on the responsibility of officers for their activities during the war campaign of 1939,” *Dz. U. RP* 1939, no. 103, pos. 1007, dated 6 December.

¹⁹ During the war, Officers’ Courts of Honour operated under the “Statute of Officers’ Courts of Honor” of 1927 – see: *Rozkaz Ministra Spraw Wojskowych z dn. 21 XI 1939 r. o organizacji i wyborach do oficerskich sądów honorowych w czasie wojny*, Ref. R.94, *Dziennik Rozkazów Tajnych* 1940, The Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum, London.

²⁰ Kwiecień, *Wśród potępięczych swarów*, 166–7.

of government sometimes took on a character that caused consternation even in government spheres in exile:

Col. Modelski, as Stanisław Stroński described him,²¹ ‘from then on excelled in untimely teasing, when, rather focusing his attention on some cases that really required some consequences, generally a lot could be evened out with calmness, without retribution [...] With time, Gen. Kukiel was to bear the troublesome burden of restraining the excesses of Izio’s [Izydor’s] zeal.’²²

Nevertheless, Gen. Modelski took an interest in the affairs of, among others, Gen. Kazimierz Schally, which he tried to clarify to the end with the cooperation of other bodies.²³ The following sources testify that the case was the same with Gen. Scaevola-Wieczorkiewicz, while investigating allegations made against him, probably about the abuse of his official position in the construction of his own house in Rozwadów in 1939.²⁴ The explanation (Document 2) proved sufficient, as Gen. Scaevola-Wieczorkiewicz never faced the Tribunal.

Document 1

II DEPUTY MINISTER OF THE ARMY

Ref. 1482/40/Rej/Tj.

Angers, 28 May 1940

BRIGADIER GENERAL WACŁAW WIECZORKIEWICZ

Training Inspector of Polish Army

Coëtquidan.

Allegations were made against the General as follows: that plans for a house on a parcel of land purchased by the General in Rozwadów, on the orders of the General as Commander of District Command X in Przemyśl, were carried out by technical personnel

²¹ Stanisław Stroński (1882–1955) – lawyer; in the Second Republic he was a member of the Polish Sejm; during World War II he headed the Ministry of Information and Documentation in the government of General Sikorski.

²² Stanisław Stroński, *Polityka rządu polskiego na uchodźstwie w latach 1939–1942*, vol. 1, ed. Jacek Piotrowski (Nowy Sącz: Goldruk, 2007), 153. Gen. I. Modelski was widely regarded as a person who “hunted down” former Sanation members. He sought “dirt” on them to keep them out of any state positions. Gen. Modelski’s character made other people (superiors) restrain his exploratory drive.

²³ See: Grzegorz Kulka, “Próba „politycznego” rozliczenia gen. Kazimierza Schally’ego w 1940 r.,” in *Studia i szkice o dwudziestoleciu międzywojennym*, eds. Tomasz Chłopecki and Paweł Fiktus (Kraków: AT Wydawnictwo 2020), 213–24.

²⁴ Rozwadów is now part of Stalowa Wola, while the house of Gen. Scaevola-Wieczorkiewicz has survived to the present day and is located at 37 Rozwadowska Street. Due to the fact that it was several stories high, in the past it served as a hospital or educational institution, among other things.

from Military Construction, during business hours, in the office, despite the fact that each of the technical clerks was overloaded with official work, thus rendering them unable to cope with said official work. And so:

- 1) Eng. Turkowski made a plan for the house,
- 2) Eng. Zawisza – electrical installation project,
- 3) Eng. Sandor – calculation of reinforced concrete stairs,
- 4) Eng. Lt. Paweł Boćko – performed the static calculation and design of the ceilings,
- 5) the head of construction drove a military car to inspect the works,

Senior Sergeant remained permanently at the construction site of the house, as the work manager while being paid by the Treasury.

In addition, Eng. Turkowski had to cover an expense of 50 zlotys. The purpose was making prints in connection with the development of a house plan.

In addition, the General gave orders to Major Dobrzański and Senior Sergeant Potykanowicz, officers of the Construction Headquarters of the District Command in Przemyśl, to remain in Jarosław to see to and take custody of his property.

In view of the above allegations, I ask the General to take a stand and provide me with a proper explanation in writing as soon as possible.

II Deputy Minister of the Army
(signature -) Brig. Gen. I. Modelski, Ph.D.

Document 2

(annotated stamp)
Ministry of the Army
Registration Bureau
Submitted on: 10 June 1940
Ref. 1758/40 Rej/Tj.

Paris 1.6.1940

II Deputy Minister of the Army
in Paris

In response to the letter dated 28 May 1940. Ref. 1482/40 Rej./Tj. I explain:
In the context of the reality, that is, the construction of my house, I personally know the following names mentioned in the above letter.

‘1) Eng. Turkowski made a plan for the house’

I represent that on the recommendation of Mr Major Zdebski, Head of Construction, I commissioned the above-mentioned Eng. Turkowski to execute the project for a fixed fee, while the plan that I accepted and which was approved and according to which the building was executed in 1939, was delivered to me and signed by Civil Engineer Przystępski.

'2) the head of construction drove a military car to inspect the works.'

I represent that the head of construction Maj. Zdebski was only on his own initiative on one occasion, as far as I know, while driving along a particular road next to a construction site that had begun, and after visiting it as I indicated above on his own initiative and willingness to show me his service, he gave me his professional advice.

'6) Senior Sergeant remained permanently at the construction site of the house, as the work manager while being paid by the Treasury.'

I represent that it was not Senior Sergeant Potykanowicz, but a civilian construction technician Zbigniew Potykanowicz, residing in Jarosław (whose father, as far as I know, was the Senior Sergeant mentioned above in the letter in question), that was reported by me and paid as supervisor of the works.

The construction manager, on the other hand, was civilian construction foreman J. Kocięk from Radomyśl, who had no connection with military construction.

'In addition, the General gave orders to Major Dobrzański...'

I represent that Eng. Dobrzański has been retired and out of military service for a number of years, and he was also my acquaintance from the old years. I met him in Stryj at the time of evacuation, i.e. on 17 or 18 September 1939, and he decided to remain in the country as a civilian – returning to Jarosław. I asked him to take care of my family and my property left there. I did not give any 'orders' or instructions to anyone 'to guard and take care' of my property.

What I represent above is the only truth. As with the other names, the people mentioned in the letter I received, I personally had nothing to do with in matters of the construction of my house, or in my personal affairs.

I can provide the detailed documentation of the above explanations at any time after returning to the country, where I left the receipts and approved plans and where the people I mentioned reside.

(-) Waclaw Wieczorkiewicz
General.

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