

ABSTRACT

The Battle of Krakow in 1914 is an event (armed combat) that took place during the Great War, on the territory of the crownland of the austrian Kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria, lying at that time within the borders of the Austrian Empire, Austria-Hungary, while after regaining independence (partially) on Polish territory. As a result of battles fought in the areas near Krakow (foreground of the Krakow Fortress), which resulted in stopping the "Russian steamroller", and a number of subsequent campaigns, the fate of the war in the East changed. This event had a significant impact on the course of the entire Great War and was decisive for the wartime and post-war situation in the entire Eastern Europe.

Along with the natural historical development of the city of Cracow, various types of buildings and structures were erected on its territory or within its borders over the centuries in order to protect its inhabitants from danger and all kinds of external influences and aggression. With the systematic development of fortification methods and the evolution of war tactics, this function also developed, eventually leading in the 19th and 20th centuries to the form of fortresses, which were extremely elaborate and complex in the form of cities. The doctrine of containing the enemy at a safe distance then became the dominant principle. Analyzing this historical period, one must conclude that the systematic development of the fortress continued practically uninterrupted until the direct onset of hostilities associated with the (eagerly awaited by so many) war. Today, the development of the unique and exceptional system of fortifications which make up the Krakow Fortress is very poorly known, while the structures and relics which are not visible are practically unknown and forgotten.

The aim of my work is to present in a systematic way the results of research work conducted on the course of the Battle of Krakow and the fortifications associated with it. It also aims at collecting archaeological materials on the battle and cataloguing structures and objects influencing (connected with) the course of the eponymous event. In the landscape of the described region there are still visible numerous remains related to the actions of the fighting sides. It is necessary in this case to document, recognize, and interpret them because the battles were fought during two world wars and their accurate identification is not always obvious. Objects that have survived until today should also be inventoried and documented due to their increasingly rapid disappearance, change of form or progressing destruction. It is not without significance that in the discussed area threats to the remains (monuments) manifest their full spectrum, negatively influencing with every day, the possibilities of registration and cognitive abilities.

Due to the extent of the subject, the availability of materials and results of works conducted, as well as the frequent fragmentation of the available studies and materials, this work will in some places go beyond the accepted framework. In order to be able to present the problem of the Battle of Cracow in the most complete and reliable way possible in terms of archaeological, architectural and historical analysis, the work will discuss particular issues in four chapters which deal in turn with: state of the source database, archaeological, architectural and historical research, the condition of the monuments as battlefield relics and the processes of change in the condition and significance of the Krakow Fortress monuments as a battlefield. It should be noted that I am not able to discuss such an extensive subject fully in this work. Therefore, in order to supplement the basic data gathered by archaeological methods, it is necessary to further detail them with specialist knowledge of history, conservation, technology, and any other field of science which can only bring us closer to understanding this event. The introduction into scientific circulation of a source of information on the results of archaeological excavations carried out should be treated as the natural culmination of the process of field research as well as the duty of the researcher or the institution that commissioned the research. The work conducted by the author, which had lasted over 7 years, does not make it possible to capture all the constituent elements, and thus indicates and arguments the need for further work on the issue. Specific character of the research influenced the necessity to choose appropriate research methods to characterize many field sites. The adopted methodology may be subject to criticism, but it does not change the fact that the application of the same criteria for the evaluation of sites made it possible to standardize the catalog cards, which above all indicates the specificity and type of the issue to be tackled during further detailed research.

Difficult aspects related to past events, extensive fortifications and archaeological relics found during many rescue works and accidental discoveries will be better understood through the collection of plans and photographs placed next to the descriptions in the text of this work. Due to the considerable area of analysis of the individual sites, the most important structures have been marked numerically and finally on a summary map. Detailed location, features, and conditions are represented on maps of the enlarged areas of the external ring of fortifications of the Krakow Fortress, divided into so-called sectors.

The archaeological research provided us with a lot of valuable information enriching our knowledge. They also allowed us to learn and understand the historical events related to the eponymous battle, but we will never be able to say how much there is left to discover. As long as research continues, it is hoped that it will be successful, providing us with the information

that makes up the great mosaic of history. Gaining knowledge of past events, or learning anew about aspects of the lives of people and fighting soldiers, can lead to the discovery of hitherto unknown areas. Of course, it is important to realize that in many cases these are heroic attempts to reach and guess a realm so elusive that we will probably never gain full knowledge of it. In perspective of the continuous development of science, the process of being obliged to ask questions and seek answers through research does not relieve us of our efforts to reach the goal, no matter how distant it may be.

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- BATTLE - ARMORY- FORTRESS.

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