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## **TULODZIECKI BROTHERS – TRIBUTE TO BIOGRAPHY**

Each of the Polish cities has its hero specifically honoured with a commemorative board, name of a street or square. Such local heroes remain unknown to wider circles of people, often fade from the memory of the community they are descended from, too. In this article I intend to portray Henry, Edward and Felician Tulodziecki, who were remarkably active in the territory of Sierpc and its vicinity in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Teachers, activists engaged in the Polish Socialist Party, members of the municipal government and political activists remain unknown to the contemporary residents of Sierpc, although the street named after their family name is one of the major streets in this city<sup>1</sup>.

An Extensive monograph devoted to the Tulodzieckis family is still missing, however I do hope this article will arouse interest in this subject matter amongst wider circles of people. The information used for the purpose of this article originates to a great extent from the unpublished family chronicles put together by Stanisław Tulodziecki, younger brother of the heroes' being the major figures in this article. It is a valuable source, though it is not free from fairly hagiographic content. The other mentions of Tulodziecki brothers, even those contained by Jan Burakowski in his books *Dzieje Sierpca i ziemi sierpeckiej* and *Sierpczanie tysiąclecia*, that I have come across, have also been insightfully and critically reviewed. Burakowski made numerous substance-based mistakes, mixing up inter alia dates of birth or positions held. The information, that has been derived from his content and referred to by myself, has, however, been confirmed in other publications. It bears noting that Henryk, Edward and Felician were inexhaustibly commemorated by late Antoni Jankowski, who had been the initiator of naming the street after their family name.

In order to explain the significance of the Tulodzieckis family for Sierpc and its vicinity, three essential issues must be elaborated upon: their teaching activities, engagement in the Polish Socialist Party, and politics.

### **Family**

A couple of words about their family background will allow to fully understand the determinants of actions undertaken by Tulodziecki brothers. Their family's ancestral home is located in Great Poland. Their ancestry first appears in Dobrzyń Land in 1831 to move closer to Sierpc over time. Felician Tulodziecki, who derives his family background from the

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<sup>1</sup> It dates back to 2011, See Monika Dobrzeniecka, *Henryk, Edward i Felician Tulodzieccy – sierpeccy bohaterowie I połowy XX wieku*, a bachelor's thesis under the superintendence of prof. UKSW dr hab. Janusz Odziemkowski, Warszawa 2011, Annex 6.

Grand Duchy of Posen, using his own variation of Doliwa coat of arms<sup>2</sup>, was the insurgent of the November Uprising, who was wounded during the retreat forced into by the Tsarist army. According to the family storytelling, he first had hidden himself in a merchant's house in Płock, next in a carpenter's house in the suburbs, and after he had healed his leg wound, he was given a lift to Dziembakowo nearby Sierpc. He intended to cross the Prussian border and obtain assistance from the relatives in Toruń, however, in the area of Dobrzyń he suffered from his wound dehiscence and a high-grade fever. The unconscious insurgent was found nearby the Drwęca river by a bricklayer's daughter Mary whom Felician married later on. That is the beginning of the informal family tradition, according to which, Tulodziecki – a nobleman on sword side married a woman from the working-class background. Felician acquired bricklaying skills by assisting his father-in-law, and his son – Felician and grandson – Stanisław were also bricklayers<sup>3</sup>. Stanisław paid much attention to education of the children, thus the next generation of the Tulodzieckis mainly graduates from the Teachers' Seminary in Wymyślin. Henryk, Edward and Felician are protagonists in this article – three oldest sons of Stanisław and his wife Katarzyna. Summing up *spiritus movens* of Tulodziecki brothers, it should be emphasised that patriotic traditions had been important in their family since their great-grandfather – the insurgent, throughout the lifetime of their father who used to read the Trilogy by Sienkiewicz for local peasants in the evenings. It is not meaningless, either, that notwithstanding their body of nobles, they had the working-class family background and identified with work ethos. That must be the genesis of the fascination with the ideals proclaimed by the Polish Socialist Party and work at grassroots in the field of education.

### Teaching Profession

Henryk<sup>4</sup> born in 1894, Edward one year younger, and Felician, born in 1897, graduated from the Teachers' Seminary in Wymyślin. Younger brothers Waclaw and Stanisław and probably two oldest sisters – Melania and Martyna followed in their steps, too. Henryk was assigned to the school in Grąbiec, and it was prestigious for him to become the first teacher in the village. The school building was erected at the turn of 1911 and 1912, which was probably the time when Henryk arrived in Grąbiec. At that time he would be as young as 18 years old. A fairly detailed description of Henryk's exemplary workday is at our disposal: lessons began at 8<sup>00</sup> – III and IV grade pupils attended the first shift of lessons whereas he taught younger pupils from noon till 15<sup>00</sup>. Three times a week he gave private extra lessons to sons of local granger owners, who intended to continue their education at secondary schools. He also gave lessons to adults, usually in winter seasons, within the framework of voluntary social work<sup>5</sup>. He immediately gained respect from people in Grąbiec and its vicinity, who came to him to

<sup>2</sup> Classical Doliwa coat of arms is Azure with a diagonal silver bend on and three red roses. The Tulodzieckis family used their own variation of Doliwa coat of arms: a silver shield with a diagonal blue sash on and three red roses. See Stanisław Tulodziecki, *Kronika rodzinna, czyli dziewięciu braci nieśpiących*, Warszawa 1985, p. 115.

<sup>3</sup> Ibidem, p. 7-8.

<sup>4</sup> The Article by J. Burakowski titled „9 Braci Nieśpiących” contains the incorrect place and date of birth of Henryk's. According to him, H. Tulodziecki was born in Skępe in 1892 but I do rely on the account given by S. Tulodziecki. Furthermore, Henryk's dates of birth and death were verified based on his grave marker. See J. Burakowski, „9 Braci Nieśpiących”. *Henryk, Edward, Felician, Waclaw Tulodzieccy*, in: *Sierpczanie tysiąclecia*, edited by H. Burakowska and J. Burakowski, Sierpc 2005, p. 64.; S. Tulodziecki, dz. cyt., p. 10.

<sup>5</sup> Idem, *Z dziejów Pogotowia Bojowego PPS*, Warszawa 1991, pp. 13-17.

request for official letters to be explained or edited. The trust neighbours put in him translated into the real help during the Second World War when Henryk was forced to hide throughout the whole period of German occupation. However, it was not wasted time since this tireless educationalist arranged for clandestine teaching<sup>6</sup>. After the war had ended, he himself, Jan Wiórkowski and Józef Marcinkowski<sup>7</sup> became members of the Education Commission, and he also held the position of the President of the Polish Teachers' Union in the Circuit of Sierpc. Anyway, many a time had he held the position of a secretary or a chairperson of the Polish Teachers' Union<sup>8</sup> before the war. However, Henryk was most active at the time of the Second Polish Republic, when he made a name for himself not only as the educationalist but also as the co-funder of the teachers' union<sup>9</sup>. Due to his indefatigable teaching activities, he was held in high esteem not only by his peers in the Polish Socialist Party – the source of his political background – but also by representatives of other groups or societies<sup>10</sup>. In the winter 1926 he came forward with the initiative to hold a weekly cultural and educational training course for the youth in the whole district<sup>11</sup>. Notwithstanding that, he was forced to retire in 1930 for political reasons<sup>12</sup>. He resumed teaching for a short period of time only after the end of the Second World War. He was undoubtedly the most zealous teacher out of the three brothers who devoted more energy to political and pro-independence activities. And so Edward, who took over the position of a teacher at the school in Mochowo, nearby Sierpc, most of his time devoted to conspiracy. His numerous trips did not go unnoticed – the Prussian authorities denounced Edward to Stumff<sup>13</sup>, the school inspector, who in turn sent him a very meaningful letter: *Panie E. Tułodziecki, albo-albo*<sup>14</sup>. Edward definitely chose the work for the benefit of regaining independence by Poland, however nothing changed by the end of the day – he formally still held the position of the teacher in Mochowo, however when he was away, the siblings: Kazimierz and Martyna, who were living with him, substituted for him as far as teaching was concerned. When the older brothers worked as teachers as early as during the First World War, Felician was qualified to become eligible for the teaching profession as late as in 1924<sup>15</sup>. Upon successful completion of III training course at the Teachers' Seminary in Wymyślin, he was assigned to the Adam Mickiewicz Primary School in Sierpc<sup>16</sup>, where he taught mathematics. He did not distinguish himself since I have not found any mentions of any pupils' recollections of the period during the Second Polish

<sup>6</sup> J. Burakowski, „9 Braci Nieśpiących”. *Henryk...*, p. 66.; S. Tułodziecki, *Kronika rodzinna...*, p. 24.

<sup>7</sup> K. Dobrosielski, *Ziemia sierpecka 1945-1947*, Warszawa 1986, p. 125.

<sup>8</sup> S. Tułodziecki, *Kronika rodzinna...*, p. 23.

<sup>9</sup> J. Linowska, *90 lat ZNP*, „Sierpeckie Rozmaitości”, 1995, no 31-32, p. 4.

<sup>10</sup> K. German, *Głodny świt niepodległości*, in: *Wspomnienia sierpczan*, edited by J. Burakowski, Sierpc 1998, p. 17.

<sup>11</sup> K. German, *Związek Młodzieży Wiejskiej „Siew” i PSL „Wyzwolenie” w Grodkowie Morgach*, in: *Wspomnienia Sierpczan*, p. 37.

<sup>12</sup> J. Burakowski, „9 Braci Nieśpiących”. *Henryk...*, p. 66.

<sup>13</sup> He had his office located in Płock but the area, that he supervised, covered several districts. His visits usually took place every 2-3 years. See S. Tułodziecki, *Kronika rodzinna...*, p. 21.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 22.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 36.

<sup>16</sup> In 1929 the name of the school was changed into the Adam Mickiewicz Public Primary School no 1. That building currently houses Nicolaus Copernicus Municipal Middle School. *Notabene* that school is located at ul. Braci Tułodzieckich 2 [2 *Tułodziecki Brothers Street*].

Republic. He may have paid more attention to the concurrently developed political career. However, we do know that he was affiliated to the Polish Teachers' Union. His developing political career was the reason for rejecting the decision on appointment for the position of a teacher in the Eastern Borderlands, which resulted in termination of his employment. He never worked as a teacher again, notwithstanding the decision of the Supreme Administrative Court, that was favourable for him<sup>17</sup>.

### Engagement in the Polish Socialist Party

Although all the three brothers were the members of the Polish Socialist Party, Edward was, however, most involved in the activities undertaken by the Party and its organisational units. Thanks to his acquaintance with Józef Korczak, he linked up with the leaders of the Polish Socialist Party, namely Tomasz Arciszewski or Tadeusz Szturm de Sztrem<sup>18</sup>. From 1916 – that is after he had come back from Russia, where he went altogether with the evacuated Teachers' Seminary – he began to organise branch offices of the Polish Socialist Party in the territory of Districts of Sierpc, Płock and Lipno. Both Edward and Henryk were accountable for training newly established organisational units<sup>19</sup>. Edward, using the code name of „Wiśniak” or „Wiśniewski”<sup>20</sup>, quickly paved his way to the position of the commander of the circuit. In „the Family Chronicles” the description of the oath ceremony for freshly trained recruiters has still been preserved<sup>21</sup>. It bears noting that it was the Battle Station of the Polish Socialist Party in the District of Płock that succeeded in a couple of major military actions, inter alia, the assassination of the district control manager, the attack on the military police station in Drobin<sup>22</sup> and Raciąż and the spectacular assault on the Tobacco Monopoly Fund in Płock and seizure of 20 thousand marks<sup>23</sup>. The school in Grąbiec, the headmaster of which was Edward, played an extremely significant role in the activities undertaken by Tulodziecki brothers. It bore the cryptonym „Karczma” [*Inn*]<sup>24</sup>, and Melania Tulodziecka, who was living with Henryk, was named „Karczmarka” [*Innkeeper*]. She also took part in the conspiracy and was awarded the Independence Medal<sup>25</sup>. The very choice of this cryptonym does not seem to be coincidental because the youth, openly meeting and discussing the contemporary political issues, were often offered treats<sup>26</sup>. The assassination of the cruel head of the prison in Sierpc

<sup>17</sup> J. Burakowski, „9 Braci Nieśpiących”. *Henryk...*, p. 69.

<sup>18</sup> S. Tulodziecki, *Kronika rodzinna...*, p. 28.

<sup>19</sup> Irena Kulańska recollects that in her house at ul. Farnej 24 [24 Farnej Street] *Peowiak meetings, that were chaired by Henryk Tulodziecki*, were held. Those were probably the meetings of Sierpc unit of POW [Polish Military Organisation]. I. Kulańska, *Lata 20-te, lata 30-te i wcześniejsze*, developed by H. Piekarska, in: *Wspomnienia Sierpczan*, p. 46.

<sup>20</sup> S. Tulodziecki, *Z dziejów Pogotowia...*, p. 55.

<sup>21</sup> S. Tulodziecki, *Kronika rodzinna...*, p. 28.

<sup>22</sup> That attack aimed at seizure of weapon and ammunition. The military policemen taken by surprise were said to give away guns and bullets, displaying no resistance. See S. Tulodziecki, *Z dziejów Pogotowia...*, p. 29.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 29.

<sup>24</sup> At school Stanisław Tulodziecki (father) constructed a special hiding-place in which weapon and ammunition, owned by the Battle Station of the Polish Socialist Party, were kept. See *Idem*, *Kronika rodzinna...*, p. 20.

<sup>25</sup> *Idem*, *Z dziejów Pogotowia...*, p. 28, 33, 53; *idem*, *Kronika rodzinna...*, p. 20-21, 29.

<sup>26</sup> At the same time S. Tulodziecki strongly emphasised that only once did it happen to have alcohol brought by someone. A bottle of vodka was said to have been thrown out of the window. As long as the story is true, it accounts

– Gintrowski was the most spectacular action carried out by the Battle Station of the Polish Socialist Party. He was assassinated on the 24th of December 1917<sup>27</sup> after the Christmas midnight mass which he had attended without any safeguard, having only a handgun on him. After the death of Gintrowski, the German repressions escalated. In effect of the treason in the spring season in 1918 Edward and Felician, using the code name „Śmiały” [*Brave*]<sup>28</sup>, were detained and imprisoned in the monastery in Sierpc, that was a prison at that time. It was attempted to accuse Edward of murdering the prison head and thus was threatened with the death penalty. However, the escape of the denouncing letter author to Lublin caused it impossible to confront the witnesses and their testimonies. Due to the lengthiness of the investigation, the decision to flee was made. The Headquarters of the Battle Station of the Polish Socialist Party in Warszawa made the decision that the recapture of Mr Tulodziecki should not cause any bloodshed and he should be enabled to enter the territory of the Austrian Partition. Tadeusz Szturm de Sztrem personally fetched falsified documents and money<sup>29</sup> but arrived one day after the funeral of Edward. His escape was extraordinarily effective: tools for sawing metal bars were supplied to his cell, the escapee jumped out of the first-floor window, and then he managed to mislead the chasers<sup>30</sup>. However, in the course of fleeing he was forced to hide himself in the bulrush, in the waist-deep water. In the evening he had a very high-grade fever and two days later – on the 3rd of November 1918 – he died. His funeral turned into a patriotic manifestation and the administration of the circuit was taken over by Henryk. On 9 November divisions of the Battle Station began to build up and on the night of 10 to 11 November the action of disarming the Germans was commenced. In the vicinity of Drobin a convoy heading toward Toruń was halted and soldiers taken by surprise gave away their weapon, bicycles, and four vehicles, that were handed over to the Polish Army<sup>31</sup>. The action nearby Babiec took a totally different course<sup>32</sup> as the oldest Tulodziecki brother came within a hair's breadth of losing his life. The Germans defended themselves

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for those meetings to be working *Peowiak* meetings indeed. See idem, *Z dziejów Pogotowia...*, p. 21.; idem, *Kronika rodzinna...*, p. 29.

<sup>27</sup> S. Tulodziecki describes the assassination after the Christmas midnight mass in a great detail, however the year is not specified. (Idem, *Z dziejów Pogotowia...*, p. 41-41.) J. Burakowski dates back the assassination to 1916, pointing to Henryk as the assassin of the police head (sic!), which is an evident error. (J. Burakowski, *Kronika Sierpca i ziemi sierpeckiej*, Sierpc 2001, p. 63.) As late as in 1916 did Edward return from Russia and began to set up the organisational units of the Battle Station of the Polish Socialist Party in the territory of Sierpc land. Gintrowski died because he dealt with all those who had any ties with pro-independence organisation with extreme cruelty. In this case the corrections implied by Antoni Jankowski in respect of the paper by J. Burakowski seem crucial. (A. Jankowski, *List do prezesa Towarzystwa Przyjaciół Ziemi Sierpeckiej z uwagami krytycznymi do „Kroniki Sierpca i ziemi sierpeckiej” Jana Burakowskiego*, „Sierpeckie Rozmaitości”, 2002, no 1-2, p. 42-44.)

<sup>28</sup> S. Tułodziecki, *Z dziejów Pogotowia...*, p. 55.

<sup>29</sup> Idem, *Kronika rodzinna...*, p. 32.

<sup>30</sup> J. Burakowski gives the account of Edward's escape from prison in Płock, however I have not come across any proof of that. (J. Burakowski, „9 Braci Nieśpiących.” *Henryk...*, p. 67.) We know that after the escape he headed toward Zalesie, next he was given a lift to friends in Dziembakowo. If we take into account the fact that he was on foot during the prison escape, we may suppose that Edward was imprisoned in Sierpc. Zalesie is located in the vicinity of Grąbiec, approximately 10 km away from Sierpc. If he had been imprisoned in Płock, he would probably have been hidden in Dziembakowo straight away, and going on foot to Zalesie would have made no sense at all.

<sup>31</sup> P. Łossowski, *Jak feniks z popiołów: oswobodzenie ziem polskich spod okupacji w listopadzie 1918*, Łowicz 1998, p. 191-194; idem, *Zerwane pęta: usunięcie okupantów z ziem polskich w listopadzie 1918 roku*, Warszawa 1986, p. 165.

<sup>32</sup> M. Chudzyński, *W dniach odzyskania niepodległości przez Polskę*, in: *Dzieje Sierpca i ziemi sierpeckiej*, edited by M. Chudzyński, Sierpc 2003, p. 357.

using machine guns. Henryk was saved only thanks to Kraśnicki – his adjutant's presence of mind. Poland, however, was restituted on the map of the world and the affiliation to the Polish Socialist Party entered a new dimension.

### Involvement in Politics

After the end of the First World War the restoration of Poland's independence started as a gradual process. Henryk's family name happens to be mentioned already at the very beginning when referring to the members of the District Executive Council Committee<sup>33</sup>. He was also sent to Masuria Lake District in order to convince the Masurian community to support integration with Poland in the plebiscite [*public opinion poll*]. However, it was not the right time since the Red Army was approaching from the East. Both Tulodziecki brothers took part in the Polish-Soviet War and after having returned to Sierpc, they resumed their work in the field of politics. Henryk was involved in the election campaign and supported the interests of peasants and workmen, which exposed him to the risk of disapproval by the leaders of the Christian Democratic Party<sup>34</sup>. For some time he was also affiliated to the pro-Sanation Revolutionary Fraction of the Polish Socialist Party<sup>35</sup>, however he soon joined the movement of combating the influence of the BBWR [*Non-partisan Bloc for Cooperation with the Government*]. He rejoined the state administration only after the end of the Second World War as, according to K. Dobrosielski, he held the position of a secretary at the meeting of the District National Council on the 28th of January 1945<sup>36</sup>. He immediately got involved in organisation of education, the labour union, and resumed his work at school. His professional engagement was, however, hampered by the deteriorating health condition. Nevertheless, it did not hinder him from taking a stand on pivotal issues. During one of the rallies, he expressed strong objection to the government lying in order to justify the show-trial of Bishop Kaczmarek<sup>37</sup> or detention of Primate Wyszyński. That speech was very much appreciated by the local community in Sierpc and his funeral in February 1955 was attended by thousands of residents of Sierpc and Grąbiec.

Felician – the youngest out of the three Tulodziecki brothers – was most involved in politics. In the District of Sierpc he was recognised to be the leading political activist of the Polish Socialist Party, especially in the mid-twenties being the peak period as far as that party's influence is concerned<sup>38</sup>. He was the Municipal Council Member and also held the position of its chairperson. He was also a member of the District Sejm, the District Management Board of the Polish Teachers' Union, the Board of Directors of the National Health Service as well as the President of „Wiedza” [*Knowledge*] – a co-operative bookstore. In effect of his activities undertaken within the framework of the bookstore, he was detained

<sup>33</sup> M. Chudzyński, dz cyt., p. 359.

<sup>34</sup> S. Tulodziecki, *Kronika rodzinna...*, p. 24.

<sup>35</sup> J. Szczepański, *Ziemia sierpecka w latach II Rzeczypospolitej 1918-1939*, in: *Dzieje Sierpca i ziemi sierpeckiej*, edited by M. Chudzyński, Sierpc 2003, p. 384.

<sup>36</sup> K. Dobrosielski, dz. cyt., p. 52.

<sup>37</sup> Czesław Kaczmarek came from the neighbourhood of Sierpc, from Lisewo Małe in the Borough of Gozdowo, in his childhood he was living in Kukowo in the Borough of Mochowo. In 1914 he graduated from the Teachers' Seminary in Wymyślin, thus he may have been Henryk's school mate.

<sup>38</sup> J. Szczepański, *Życie społeczno-polityczne (1922-1939)*, in: *Dzieje Sierpca i ziemi sierpeckiej*, edited by M. Chudzyński, Sierpc 2003, p. 384.

for alleged fraud of 270 zloties, however the case had never come on for trial<sup>39</sup>. It was most probably a manipulation since his detention coincided with the parliamentary elections in 1930. In Sierpc Felician Tulodziecki was regarded as a leading authority and much social trust was placed in him. He stood for election as a member of the Polish Socialist Party that put him on a circuit candidates list during the general elections in 1928, however in 1930 he was to stand for election as a member of the Centre-left party. Grzegorz Radomski claims that Tulodziecki's resilience made it easier for Mieczysław Niedziałkowski, who also stood for election as a member of the Polish Socialist Party PPS-u<sup>40</sup>, to become a Member of the Parliament by being elected in general elections. In my opinion, Niedziałkowski already had had a well-established position at that time and it was also doubtful whether Tulodziecki's influence reached out beyond the District of Sierpc. It should be emphasised that public activities undertaken by Felician displayed his left-wing political views that he manifested through fighting for equal opportunities and combating discrimination. He fiercely defended the interests of Jews' who faced the attempts to deprive them of the source of income by changing the open market days from Tuesday and Friday into Wednesday and Saturday. Thanks to Tulodziecki's intervention, this project was turned down by the majority of 10 votes cast against it and 5 votes cast in favour of it<sup>41</sup>. He also defended Jews during the rally organised by the Youth Legion of Labour Union in May 1939, during which the speakers exhorted to boycott the Jewish shops. Felician took the floor during the rally and raised strong objection to the speakers, accusing them of the attempt to disintegrate the nation, condemned Nazism and Hitler's actions, and urged to unite in order to defend the homeland and left the rally ostentatiously<sup>42</sup>. He was joined by the majority of the rally participants to leave and such a gathering has never been organised again in Sierpc. Shortly after the outbreak of the war, Felician was detained and, although he was remanded on bail of 2000 marks, he was repeatedly detained afterwards<sup>43</sup>. Although he was advised to flee, he did not want to leave his little daughters whose mother had recently died<sup>44</sup>. In consequence, he was ultimately sent to the concentration camp in Mauthausen, where he died on the 8th of December 1942.

## Conclusion

The indefatigable fighters for the freedom of Poland, activists cherishing the abundance of ideals derived from the Polish Socialist Party, teachers – there they were Henryk, Edward and Felician Tulodziecki. The street in the city they were associated with was named after their family name to commemorate them. They were awarded the Crosses of Independence. However, the pupils at primary and middle schools in Sierpc are not aware who Tulodziecki brothers were and what they did. There are no commemorative boards, monuments or even

<sup>39</sup> S. Tułodziecki, *Kronika rodzinna...*, p. 37.

<sup>40</sup> G. Radomski, *Udział mieszkańców Sierpca w wydarzeniach społeczno-politycznych Drugiej Rzeczypospolitej*, „Sierpeckie Rozmaitości”, 2000, no 1.

<sup>41</sup> L. Gongola, *Prawa i ludzie*, „Sierpeckie Rozmaitości”, 2001, no 2, p. 31. ; J. Szczepański, *Życie społeczno-polityczne...*, p. 385.

<sup>42</sup> A. Jankowski, *W obronie jedności narodu. Felician Tulodziecki*, in: *Sierpczanie tysiąclecia*, p. 71-72.; A. Jankowski, *Kontrowersje wokół ulicy Tulodzieckiego*, „Sierpeckie Rozmaitości”, 1992, no 4, p. 6.

<sup>43</sup> J. Burakowski, „9 Braci Nieśpiących.” *Henryk...*, p. 69.

<sup>44</sup> A. Zwoliński, *Okupacyjna codzienność*, „Sierpeckie Rozmaitości”, 1999, no 3, p. 3.

reliable publications devoted to their lives. It would be purposeful to consider whether it is an infamous case of the contemporary's ignorance or rather nationwide practice of marginalising the knowledge on the nation's heroes. The knowledge on the history of the region or a city is niche, it is swiftly forgettable. In order to change that it is necessary to involve the local community in discovering its history anew.

### **Tulodziecki brothers – tribute to biography**

#### **Summary**

The aim of the article is to portray the heroes of Sierpc from the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century: Henry, Edward and Felician Tulodziecki. It comprises a synopsis of their activity in the fields of education and politics, including their participation in the organisational units of the Polish Socialist Party.

**Keywords:** Tulodziecki family, Sierpc, Polish Socialist Party (PPS), teachers, politicians

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