

SZWARCBART (SZWARCBARD) Waldemar Jerzy Natan (1894–1941?), assumed name “Włodzimierz Jan”. Polish Legions soldier, district commandant of the Polish Military Organisation, business correspondent, manager of county health und. He was born on 6th or 8th November 1894 in Częstochowa, the son of Dawid Bolesław and Felicja née Brocka.

In 1913, he graduated from philological gimnazjum Piotrków [Trybunalski]. On 17th October 1914, he joined the Polish Legions – he was a soldier in the 5th Battalion, 1st Brigade. At the end of that year, he fell ill and, from January to February 1915, Health Recovery Station in Jabłonków. From March to May 1915, he was a soldier in the Supplementary Battalion and, from 15th July of that same year until the Oath crisis¹, in the 2nd Company, 4th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade. (From April to August 1917, he undertook that regiment’s officer course).

He displayed bravery in the battle of Jastków, carrying wounded under enemy fire and treating them. On 3rd October 1915, in the battle of Koszчыce, according to the award citation, “Despite the complete destruction of its trench by enemy artillery, numerous losses and a lack of food and water, the exhausted platoon withstood the attack and then, in the evening, launched a counter-attack, driving the enemy out of the way”.

Following the Oath crisis, from 1st October 1917 until 31st August 1918, he served as commander of the Częstochowa POW District. From 11th November 1918, he was the POW commissar for Częstochowa County. His task was to mobilise the POWs into the Polish Army. From 1st January 1919, he was commandant of the People’s Militia in Sosnowiec. On 1st May of that same year, he was sent to the 2nd DP as the manager of the economic office, promoted to Second Lieutenant and then lieutenant (effective from 1st June 1919).

From 1st April 1920, he headed the economic office in the Prisoners’ Section of the 4th Division of the General Staff of the Polish Armed Forces – from 1st January 1921, in the Department of Prisoners and Internees Section of the 1st Division of the Ministry of Military Affairs (MSWojsk.).

He was the author of the Polish-Soviet repatriation agreement, which was included in the Treaty of Riga. He prepared an organisational plan and implemented the organisation of repatriation camps in the territory of the

¹ [TN] “The Oath crisis” (Pol: Kryzys przysięgowy) was a World War I political conflict between the Imperial German Army command and the Józef Piłsudski-led Polish Legions. For more information, see: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oath_crisis

Republic of Poland and the complete repatriation of prisoners-of-war. On several occasions, Szwarcbart received commendations from the Minister of Military Affairs. From 1st May 1921, he headed the Prisoners and Internees Section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. On 4th November of that same year, he was assigned to the Internees Department of the Delegation of the Republic of Poland, in the Mixed Repatriation Committee. On 8th February 1922, he was transferred to the reserves, assigned to the 37th Infantry and, later, to the 30th Infantry and 82nd Regiments.

After leaving the army, he co-organised the employment centres of the Central Brotherly Academic Help and from June 1922, the Association of Borderlands Guards. From August 1923, he was manager of the Workers' Bookshop and of the political and literary department of the "Osadnik" magazine. In 1925, the Ministry of Military Affairs accepted his memorial regarding the permanent distribution of a book in the Polish Army. However, budgetary constraints made it impossible to implement the project.

From July 1925 to August 1926, he worked in the Warsaw municipal authority. He then headed the County Health Fund, first in Międzyrzecz Podlaski, from November 1928 in Wieluń, from May 1930 to September 1931 in Lwów and, from October 1931, w Brześć nad Bugiem (where he lived at the outbreak of World War II).

He belonged to the Union of Polish Legionnaires, serving as board secretary for the Podlasie-Poleski district. Following the Soviet aggression in September 1939, he was arrested by the NKVD. In 1940, he was held in prison in Mińsk, where he was most likely murdered before July 1941.

He was awarded the *Virtuti Militari* Knight's Cross 5th Class, the Cross of Independence, the Cross of Valour (4th Infantry Regiment) and the Austrian Bronze Medal of Valour.

He was married to Maria née Kadysz (?).

Gałęzowski, *Na wzór Berka Joselewicza*, pp. 625–626.