

Summary of doctoral dissertation

The subject of the doctoral dissertation is the Professional Fire Service in the Opolskie Voivodeship in 1950-1991. The dissertation consists of an introduction, six chapters, a conclusion, and a bibliography.

The introduction justifies the choice of the subject of the doctoral dissertation, discussion of the structure of the work, subject and research objectives, state of research on firefighting including the Opolskie Voivodeship, research methods, techniques, and tools as well as the organization of the course of research.

The choice of work topic was dictated by my observations of the firefighter's environment, due to the fact that I am a professional firefighter myself. The importance of fire brigades in Poland, including the Opolskie Voivodeship is primarily due to the idea of protecting people, animals, property, and the environment against fires and other threats. Teaching, raising children and young people to shape appropriate attitudes and patterns in communities as well as giving encouragement to the peers plays a big role.

In addition to helping the public, firefighters also have a significant mission to prevent threats through broadly understood prevention. In addition, fire brigades are used to promote the cities and towns in which they are located, through broad involvement in local social life. At the same time, they also promote themselves through projects such as shows, fire sports competitions, preventive training in schools.

The dissertation is an attempt to present the formation of organizational structures for fire protection in Poland after the end of World War II, their activities in the new socio-political the situation of the Polish People's Republic, transformations from the early 90s up to 1991, when in place of the Professional Fire Service (ZSP)) the State Fire Service (PSP) was appointed - in regional terms.

Research topics concern the creation and operation of ZSP as well as its impact on society through the service. The territorial scope of work covers the Opolskie Voivodeship within its changing boundaries, while the chronological scope of the doctoral dissertation covers the years 1950-1991. The initial caesura is associated with the creation of the Opolskie Voivodeship, and the final one is the year in which the PSP was appointed in place of the ZSP.

This paperwork shows the history of the ZSP in regional terms, but it is not a monography on individual fire stations or rescue and firefighting units. The construction of the work is chronological and problematic. The area of the Opolskie Voivodeship is a representative sample for the whole of Poland. In my research, I noticed the activity of the fire brigade in the field of profession to which the rescue and firefighting formation was called, as well as out-of-service activity.

In my dissertation, I referred to the phenomenon of an organization that, despite historical turmoil, not only did not cease to exist, but also evolved - brought together and still unites people to protect against fire, as well as to show social attitudes and their impact on the scope of activity of individuals as part of the defense against the imposition of Soviet ideology, fight for freedom, culture, cultivating traditions, documenting history, and educational activities among young people.

In the first chapter, I characterized the difficult beginnings of creating structures and organizing Polish fire departments, shaping them, as well as the establishment of a state professional fire protection authority in the Republic of Poland and on the so-called "Recovered lands", based on the example of the Opole Silesia region.

After the end of hostilities in Central and Eastern Europe, along with the change of nationality of Opole Silesia the region, fire regulations, uniforms, and firefighting equipment also changed. The readiness of firefighters to help the victims remained unchanged. Regardless of nationality, religion, or social status, firefighters always stay at risk of life and health participated and participated in actions, saving people, animals, property, and the environment. Professional and voluntary fire brigades not only fulfilled and fulfill their basic tasks, which include, among others: extinguishing fires, removing local threats, and broadly understood fire prevention but also played and play an important role in the social and cultural life in a given town.

The second chapter presents the legal status of the ZSP in the years 1950-1991 on the example of five fire protection laws that were applied in years: 1934, 1950, 1960, 1975, and 1991. This chapter is divided into five subsections, where each of them discusses and characterized the above-mentioned laws.

In the third chapter, I showed the organizational structure of the ZSP in the Opolskie Voivodeship in 1950-1991. In the beginning, I described a breakthrough when the ZSP was established throughout the country, its development, and transformation in the years 1950-1991. This subsection is an introduction to the ZSP's activities, including in the Opolskie

Voivodeship, as decisions and arrangements which were made at the central level resulted in their implementation at lower levels of organizational hierarchical subordination.

In the second section, I characterized the activity of the Provincial Headquarter of the State Fire Service in Opole from the moment of its establishment, development in the difficult years of the Polish People's Republic to 1991. The last section is a description of the reconstruction and activity of the ZSP in county and city headquarters.

In chapter four I presented and analyzed the fire station equipment, uniforms, and equipment of the firefighters used in the ZSP in 1950-1991, modernization plans, etc. I also characterized the training centers and fire schools that operated in the abovementioned years in the Opolskie Voivodeship.

Chapter five contains a description of the activity of ZSP in the Opolskie Voivodeship in the field of firefighting. At this point, I described issues related to the prevention and spread of fires on the example of tabular summaries of rescue and firefighting operations.

In chapter six I presented the social impact and social status of the firefighter profession. I showed activities outside the fire service of the ZSP in the process of shaping trust and a sense of security in society.

The ending contains a summary of all my research in the field of ZSP, a recapitulation of each chapter, which resulted from my observations in the field of undertaken issues, and also presented the results of research in the field of social trust that society has for firefighters.

The bibliography is a collection of sources that I analyzed when writing my doctoral dissertation, such as archival documents, scientific literature, national periodicals (monthly magazines), other magazines, legal acts (laws, ordinances, etc.), chronicles, interviews with former fire brigade employees and internet sources.

The main purpose of my research was to learn and describe the functioning of ZSP in the adopted spatial and temporal area, strive to obtain information about the role they played in extinguishing fires and removing other local threats, as well as analyzing the activity of this formation outside the service to local communities and roles, they played there.

The following specific objectives result from the main objective developed in this way: getting to know the firefighting environment, characterizing the activity of ZSP in the Opolskie Voivodeship in 1950–1991, showing the role that firefighters played in ensuring fire and border security, especially in the initial period after the end of World War II in Europe Central and Eastern Europe, saving from forgetting "St. Florian worshiping people" and their contribution to the fire protection of our region, their achievements, which should be passed on to future generations, determining the impact of the fire brigade on the education of

children and adolescents and instilling appropriate patterns and attitudes in them, comparing statistical data obtained from archives to show annual growth the number of incidents, victims, etc., showing the social image of the fire brigade as a service with the greatest public support.

The main research problem to be solved under this dissertation was an attempt to show the ZSP in the aspect of its achievements for the good of the country and society in the years 1950–1991 in the Opolskie Voivodeship, affecting local society in connection with the service and beyond, thus contributing to growing support in the eyes of public opinion.

The research was preceded by an analysis of the state of knowledge, a statement of scientific views, and an indication of problems to be solved. The following methods, scientific explanation, and research procedures were used to solve the main research problem and detailed research problems and verification of theses: historical description, analysis, and criticism of sources, assessment of the Professional Fire Service in the years 1950–1991 on the example of the Opolskie Voivodeship, a generalization of research results and inference.

To supplement the research material, I also used the document analysis method. These studies were very useful at the stage of formulating and clarifying hypotheses, which is why I analyzed the Act on fire protection and other legal acts regarding ZSP. I also researched archival documents, searched for the information contained in scientific literature, articles from industry and other magazines, chronicles, and information obtained from people - former ZSP employees. I believe that by carrying out these analyzes, I obtained reliable material (data) useful for writing my doctoral dissertation using the above method.