

Joanna Szady*

‘Unfortunately, I Was Late for Murmań...’

Behind the Scenes of Dr Józef Jakóbkiewicz’s Early Social Activity (1892–1953)

„Niestety, na Murmań spóźniłem się...”

Kulisy początków działalności społecznej dra Józefa Jakóbkiewicza (1892–1953)

Abstract: The article describes a key moment in the life of Józef Jakóbkiewicz, a doctor, scout and social activist, which was fundamental to his fate and professional activity. Because of the ‘Murmansk episode’ in 1918, when Jakóbkiewicz changed his route while escaping from Soviet Russia, he turned to caring and educational activities. Having completed his military service during World War I, Jakóbkiewicz worked as a doctor in Siberia and became involved in a campaign aimed at transporting Siberian children to Poland from 1919 to 1923. He also helped children from Siberia after returning to Poland and then resumed his medical career in the second half of the 1920s. The biographical thread described in this article focuses on the early stage of his life, preceding his achievements in helping children in the interwar period, which are known from the literature on the subject. The biographical materials used in this text were obtained from the resources of the Archives of the University of Warsaw and the Main Medical Library. The article describes the background of historical events and the socio-political situation, an understanding of which is crucial for presenting Jakóbkiewicz’s diverse life path.

Keywords: Józef Jakóbkiewicz, Murmansk, Polish Rescue Committee in Vladivostok, Educational Centre for Siberian Children in Wejherowo.

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The path to the military medical service

Józef Jakóbkiewicz was born on 16 March 1892 in Perm on the Kama River (the Urals) into a family with strong patriotic traditions. The view that he was the son of Jan, a January Uprising exile, and Maria (née Suryn),¹ has become established in the literature. From a biographical note kept in the collections of the Main Medical Library, it is known that Józef Jakóbkiewicz was ‘the son of engineer-technologist Jan Jakóbkiewicz,² an ardent patriot and activist exiled to the Urals during the Tsarist oppression.’³ The intellectual development of young Józef and his familiarity with culture were facilitated by the atmosphere of the family home and his parents’ care for education. Undoubtedly, he owed his ability to play the piano, sing and speak French to his mother, who came from a wealthy landowning family.⁴ He mastered Greek and Latin at the classical gymnasium in Smolensk. Józef also spoke Russian and English and also learned the basics of Japanese.⁵ In the Jakóbkiewicz family home, great importance was attached to the education of the four children,⁶ with Józef choosing medical studies. During his studies, while deepening his medical knowledge, he was still interested in art and literature and was part of the wide

- 1 Por. A. Ruta, *Jakóbkiewicz Józef (1892–1953)*, in: *Harcerski słownik biograficzny*, ed. J. Wojtycza, vol. 3, Warszawa 2012, p. 83; W. Theiss, *Józef Jakóbkiewicz (1892–1953)*, „Harcerstwo”, 28 (1986) issue 7(318), p. 35; idem, *J. Jakóbkiewicz (1892–1953)*, „Przegląd Historyczno-Oświatowy”, 29 (1986) issue 3 (113), p. 321.
- 2 Jan Jakóbkiewicz (ok. 1840–1938), ślub z Marią Suryn (1853–1934) prawdopodobnie ok. 1870; Maria Suryn (Jakóbkiewicz) ~1853–1934, <https://wielcy.pl/nekrologia/205153>, accessed: 23.06.2023; Jan Jakóbkiewicz, <http://www.sejm-wielki.pl/b/n.211352>, accessed: 23.06.2023.
- 3 Main Medical Library (Główna Biblioteka Lekarska, GBL), Materiały Józefa Jakóbkiewicza (MJJ), Biogram, sign. I-188, p. 1.
- 4 According to his biography, he started his secondary school education in the town of Vyatka (now Kirov) on the Kama River; GBL, MJJ, Archiwum maszynopisów, Curriculum vitae, sign. I-188, b.p.
- 5 M. Appelt, *Dr Józef Jakóbkiewicz (1892–1955)*, in: *Pod żaglami „Grażyny”. Relacje i wspomnienia*, ed. M. Appelt, Poznań 1997, p. 229.
- 6 His brother Mirosław was a lawyer, Czesław—a mining engineer and his sister, Janina—a French teacher; W. Theiss, *J. Jakóbkiewicz (1892–1953)*, p. 322.

circles of artists and activists of the Sokol movement.⁷ In 1915, having completed eight semesters of his medical education at the University of Moscow,⁸ he was drafted into the army. The outbreak of World War I meant doctors were conscripted into the army, which included all medics capable of military service as well as medical students in their final years of study who first had to undergo short training.⁹ The decision to mobilize and send Jakóbkiewicz to the front—initially to the Małopolska region, and then to Romania—changed his professional and life situation. In the Russian army, he served as a doctor on the front line from 1915. He was head of field hospital no. 355¹⁰ of the 9th Army of General Platon Leczicki (1856–1921) and then a doctor in the surgical ward of field hospital no. 444. He also managed the evacuation point for several corps of the above-mentioned unit.¹¹ Jakóbkiewicz did his war service as a captain (so-called *зауряд-врач*) in Kolomyia and the Romanian towns of Piatra Neamț and Botoșani. Based on his experiences from that period, he wrote a study on the methods of transporting the sick and wounded.¹²

- 7 In the Moscow Sokol community, gymnastics sections began to be formed in 1906 and numerous sports sections in 1909; M. Ponczek, „Sokół” w Królestwie Polskim i w Rosji (1888–1918), in: *Zarys dziejów Sokolstwa Polskiego w latach 1867–1997*, eds. E. Małolepszy, Z. Pawluczuk, Częstochowa 2001, p. 45; M. Appelt, *Dr Józef Jakóbkiewicz*, p. 229.
- 8 Archives of the University of Warsaw (Archiwum Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, AUW), Akta Józefa Jakóbkiewicza (AJJ), Podanie do Wydziału Lekarskiego Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego z dnia 20 grudnia 1922, sign. WL nf-3, p. 1; *ibidem*, Curriculum vitae, p. 2.
- 9 A. Konopka, *Bezpieczeństwo sanitarne wojsk. Polskie formacje wojskowe w Rosji (1914–1917)*, Białystok 2011, p. 71.
- 10 According to his CV, no. 335. This number is also included in the English version of his CV and in the publication about his sanitary service (there is also information about his work in the infectious diseases hospital in Kamianets-Podilskyi); GBL, MJJ, Archiwum maszynopisów, Curriculum vitae, sign. I-188, b.p.; J. Jakóbkiewicz, *Kilka spostrzeżeń dotyczących służby sanitarnej w polu na podstawie wspomnień z armji rosyjskiej*, Warszawa 1934, pp. 3–4.
- 11 W. Theiss, *J. Jakóbkiewicz (1892–1953)*, p. 323.
- 12 J. Jakóbkiewicz, *Kilka spostrzeżeń*, Warszawa 1924.

Owing to the defeats suffered by Russia on the front and the reaction of political forces to the Act of 5 November 1916,¹³ the situation of Poles also changed as they were full of hope for the expansion of Polish military formations. At that time, the military movement rapidly developed, organizing the lives of Poles in the Russian army, and efforts were taken to create the Polish Armed Forces.¹⁴ Thanks to this atmosphere, the Polish Rifle Division in the Kyiv Military District began to be formed in 1917. Further developments were influenced by the events of the February Revolution, including the process of democratization of the army, understood in a specific way, which, combined with propaganda and anti-war slogans, led to anarchy in the ranks of the armed forces. The tone of these events—following the so-called Order No. 1 of the Petrograd Soviet of Workers' and Soldiers' Deputies of March 1917—was set by soldier committees established at all organizational levels of the army. Jakóbkiewicz also experienced these revolutionary moods in the army as he was a delegate to the Congress of Doctors in Odessa, which was convened by one of these committees.¹⁵ After the Bolshevik Revolution, Jakóbkiewicz withdrew from active military service and focused on completing his medical studies.

Efforts to return to Poland

In the spring of 1918, Jakóbkiewicz passed the state medical examination at the University of Moscow. His diploma was nostrified on 3 February 1923 at the University of Warsaw.¹⁶ At that time, he also obtained additional pro-

- 13 The Act of 5 November 1916 was a manifesto of Emperors Wilhelm II and Franz Joseph announcing the creation of Poland from the lands of the Russian partition. The manifesto was the first declaration of the occupying powers on the creation of an independent Poland, giving the issue of independence an international character. *Dzieje Polski. Kalendarium*, ed. A. Chwalba, Kraków 1999, p. 612; P. Bauer, G. Łukomski, B. Polak, *Polskie formacje wojskowe w Rosji 1914–1920*, Koszalin 2003, p. 21.
- 14 M. Wrzosek, *Polski czyn zbrojny podczas pierwszej wojny światowej 1914–1918*, Warszawa 1990, p. 283.
- 15 W. Theiss, *Józef Jakóbkiewicz (1892–1953)*, p. 36; J. K. Jacyna [J. Jakóbkiewicz], *Kołotuszka. Wspomnienie z dni rewolucji rosyjskiej*, Chicago [1920], pp. 12–17.
- 16 GBL, MJJ, Karta rejestracyjna członka Izby Lekarskiej Warszawsko-Białostockiej z 6 listopada 1935, sign. I-188, p. 1; AUW, AJJ, Dyplom doktora medycyny, sign. WL-Nrej 5, b.p.

fessional qualifications for the position of district doctor (so-called *уездный врач*).¹⁷ Having passed the appropriate exams, he made efforts to join the ranks of Polish military formations. His decision was motivated by the strongly developing movement of Polish military men in the Russian army from the spring of 1917. It was in this environment that the faction aimed at expanding the Polish armed forces in Russia ultimately prevailed. During the 1st General Congress of Military Poles, held in Petrograd in June 1917, the Supreme Polish Military Committee (the so-called Naczpol) was established for this purpose. The formal path to the formation of the Polish army in Russia was begun by the Military Commission for the Formation of Polish Units at the Russian General Staff.¹⁸ Jakóbkiewicz also tried to take the opportunity to join the Polish army. He confirmed this in his biography when describing the moment he registered with the corps of General Józef Dowbór-Muśnicki (1867–1937) in the office of General Jan Jacyna (1864–1930)¹⁹ in St Petersburg (the city was named Petrograd from 1914 to 1924).²⁰ Today, it is known that this was a late decision given the situation at that time. Following the capitulation agreement, the demobilization of the 1st Polish Corps began in May 1918.²¹ Some of the soldiers of this unit decided to join the military forces to participate in further fighting. One such Polish unit was formed as part of the coalition forces in Murmansk in the summer of 1918.

17 AUW, AJJ, Curriculum vitae, sign. WL-nf 3, p. 2.

18 M. Wrzosek, *Polski czyn zbrojny*, p. 317.

19 He headed the Military Commission [Komisja Wojskowa] after the establishment of Naczpol on July 10, 1917; H. Bagiński, *Wojsko polskie na Wschodzie 1914–1920*, Warszawa 1921, p. 123.

20 General Dowbór-Muśnicki was appointed commander of the 1st Polish Corps on 6 August 1917. A. Konopka, *Służba zdrowia I Korpusu Polskiego w Rosji (1917–1918)*, Białystok 2014, p. 22; J. Dowbór-Muśnicki, *Wspomnienia*, Warszawa 2003, p. 140; GBL, MJJ, Archiwum maszynopisów, Curriculum vitae, sign. I-188, b.p.

21 By the spring of 1918, the forces of the 1st Polish Corps had already broken away from the revolutionary Russian army, counteracted the disarmament of the corps forces after the Russian-German armistice in December 1917, captured the fortress and city of Bobruisk, and then signed an agreement with the Germans specifying the status of the corps in the Bobruisk region in February 1918, and finally disbanded the unit after the Treaty of Brest.

As arranged by General Józef Haller, the Polish Unit was formed in the town of Kola on the Murmansk Peninsula.²² Although it was difficult to reach the target point, which was the ports in the far north, this allowed soldiers to join the Polish army being formed in France:

It was a window to the world—narrow, distant, but allowing one to breathe a fresh breeze after the Bolshevik staleness. It was a gate through which, even in dreams, one could return to Poland. But above all, it was a point over which, next to the coalition banners, the White Eagle [the emblem of Poland—translator’s note] fluttered—these words fully reflect the hopes of the Poles for returning to the country.²³

Despite much turmoil, Jakóbkiewicz joined the officers in Vitebsk who, after the disarmament of the 1st Corps, were heading north towards Murmansk, hoping to get through to General Haller’s Polish Army. During the march north, they had to break through the Bolshevik forces, which ruthlessly eliminated soldiers from disarmed Polish units.²⁴ The matter was complicated as a permanent front line was established before the areas of northern Russia that were occupied by the British intervention corps. The last attempt in July 1918 to transfer through Arkhangelsk failed because Polish soldiers grouping in Nizhny Novgorod were defeated and arrested.²⁵ Regarding this situation, Jakóbkiewicz wrote in his biography: ‘I was late for Murmań and, having the road to the west cut off, I headed east to get to France via Siberia and China.’ This was connected with the fact that a new course of action was taken during the formation of Polish units in Siberia. This combination of circumstances influenced Jakóbkiewicz’s fate and the decision to head to the eastern fringes of Russia, where he played another important role, not only as a doctor.

22 H. Bagiński, *Wojsko Polskie na Wschodzie*, p. 444.

23 A. Bogusławski, *Słowo wstępne*, in: Z. Chrzastowski, *Chmurne i durne. Na Murmań, Łomianki* 2014, p. 183.

24 A moving description of the hardships and dangers on the way to Murmansk, see: Z. Chrzastowski, *Chmurne i durne*; S. Zagórski, *Baśka Murmańska i Lwy Północy*, Ustroń 2021.

25 D. Radziwiłłowicz, *Polskie formacje zbrojne we wschodniej Rosji oraz na Syberii i Dalekim Wschodzie w latach 1918–1920*, Olsztyn 2009, p. 220.

Prologue of social activity and the scouting movement

From July to November 1918, Jakóbkiewicz stayed at Lake Baikal, where he worked as a railway doctor in Irkutsk and Sludzianka, and then moved to Vladivostok to take up the position of a sanitary doctor.²⁶ From the autumn of 1919, in the Russian Far East, broader social activity was developed. After the breakthrough of the Ural front and the fall of Kolchak’s troops, particularly the civilian population was in a tragic situation. This required an intensified aid campaign for refugees arriving from the west, as well as for the local population feeling the hardships of war. Among the Polish communities in Siberia and the Russian Far East, children, victims of war, suffered the most. In response to the need to provide assistance to Poles, and Polish orphans in particular, scattered throughout Siberia, the Polish Rescue Committee (PCR) was established on 16 September 1919 in Vladivostok, with Jakóbkiewicz as vice-president.²⁷

Jakóbkiewicz, who was not yet 30 when he joined the board of the PCR, had already been a renowned doctor and scout activist among the Vladivostok Polish community for a year. Until 1914, the Polish community in eastern Russia, Siberia and the Russian Far East was a conglomeration of many social groups who had arrived in various emigration waves. Among them were former exiles from the time of national uprisings and their descendants, agricultural settlers and incomers (including those working on the construction of the main railway line) who had gone there in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, as well as political

26 During World War I, a sanitary doctor was in charge of a region (part of a district), taking action during the outbreak of an epidemic: he managed disinfection columns and mobile hospitals. A. Gładysz, J. Kos, *Założenia organizacyjne zapobiegania, zwalczania i leczenia ostrych chorób zakaźnych na ziemiach polskich w XX wieku*, in: *Choroby zakaźne i ich zwalczanie na ziemiach polskich w XX wieku*, eds. J. Kostrzewski et al., Warszawa 2001, p. 19.

27 The Committee (initially: the Rescue Commission) intensified its activities with the influx of refugees, officially starting in early October. W. Theiss, *Polski Komitet Ratunkowy we Władywostoku (1919–1920). Z dziejów pomocy i opieki społecznej*, „Przegląd Polonijny”, 16 (1990) issue 4 (58), p. 52; [J. Jakóbkiewicz], *Polski Komitet Ratunkowy (krótki zarys powstania i działalności)*, „Echo Dalekiego Wschodu”, 1922, issue 10, p. 2.

exiles and soldiers of Russian units stationed in this area.²⁸ During World War I, they were joined by crowds of refugees, prisoners of war and, finally, former Polish soldiers serving in the Russian army. The needs related to the organization of Poles' lives were significant at that time and concerned not only biological protection and material security but also the educational and upbringing issues of children and young people. The scouting movement, which was very active in the Russian Far East, took care of these problems.²⁹

In February 1919, Jakóbkiewicz became the leader of the Vladivostok scout troop. Later, he was even more involved in scouting and headed the Far East Scout District, established in May 1919. It was thanks to Jakóbkiewicz that the local scout troops specialized in sailing. As an amateur sailor, he was very active at that time in promoting the development of this discipline among scouts, treating this form of activity as key to the physical and spiritual development of young people. He also initiated the organization of a summer scouting camp on the so-called Russian Island off the coast of Vladivostok, during which not only the physical fitness of young people developed but the idea of maritime scouting was also promoted among them.³⁰ During the instructor course, scouts from those regions gained specialist knowledge and skills (including swimming and rowing) and learnt Polish history, literature and patriotic songs. Historical talks aroused patriotic feel-

28 J. Wiśniewski, *Liczebność Polaków we Wschodniej Rosji i na Syberii w latach 1914–1918. Zarys problematyki*, in: *Polacy na Syberii od XIX do XXI wieku*, ed. S. Leończyk, Warszawa 2019, pp. 64–65.

29 Scout centres established in this region include: the 1st Tadeusz Kościuszko Scout Troop in Vladivostok (from November 1917); the 1st Henryk Sienkiewicz Manchurian Scout Troop in Harbin (from June 1918); the 1st Adam Mickiewicz Scout Troop in Nikolsk-Ussuriyskiy (from December 1918). In March 1919, scouting activities also covered Khabarovsk and, later, teams were established in Chita (from December 1919—the Jan Skrzetuski Scout Troop) and in the railway settlement near the Manchuria station from January 1920—the Józef Piłsudski Scout Troop). W. Kukła, M. Miszczuk, *Dzieje Harcerstwa na obczyźnie 1912–2006. Zarys problematyki*, Warszawa 2006, p. 22; A. Winiarz, *Zarys organizacji harcerstwa na Dalekim Wschodzie (1917–1942)*, in: *Dzieje harcerstwa na obczyźnie w latach 1912–1992. Materiały z konferencji naukowej odbytej w dniach 29–30 maja 1992 r. w Rogach k. Gorzowa Wlkp.*, ed. M. Szczerbiński, Gorzów Wlkp. 1992, p. 176.

30 S. W. Wojstowski, *Zarys historii Harcerstwa Polskiego na Wschodzie*, „Sybirak”, 5 (1938) issue 1–2 (14), p. 32.

ings in young scouts towards their homeland which was perceived as the highest ideal, the foundation of which was their moral and physical strength.³¹ Appreciating this form of educational work, Jakóbkiewicz emphasized: 'The scouts drew from the Polish spirit, which gave vivid national colours to our scouting in a distant foreign land.'³² Therefore, the Vladivostok scouts were called the 'forge of patriotism' which deepened knowledge about the distant and longed-for homeland. This specific 'hunger for Polishness' could be seen during sea expeditions in the Sea of Japan, when 'white and red flags, the first Polish flags in these waters, were flying'³³ on boats navigated by scouts. The water-related nature of the Polish scout troop named after Tadeusz Kościuszko in Vladivostok also served a propaganda function. Cruises under the Polish flag allowed the squadrons of Great Britain, the United States, Japan, France, Italy and China intervening in Vladivostok to admire the bravery and efficiency of Polish sailors.³⁴ The scout educational models developed in Vladivostok were later transferred to Poland. The organization of Far Eastern scouts specializing in water-related activities was one of many initiatives that Jakóbkiewicz undertook, as it turns out, having assessed the current needs in a given place and time.

Participation in aid operations in the Far East

Throughout his entire life, Jakóbkiewicz would constantly take action or modify it in response to the existing situation as can be seen in his further work to help children. He made one of his interventions at the onset of winter 1919. At that time, reports of the high mortality rate among children waiting for immediate help in many cities and settlements of the Transbaikal region reached Vladivostok. On the front line of Kolchak's retreating army, there were wagons with refugees dying of cold and hunger, only a few of whom found shelter in nearby

31 *Z wędrówek harcerzy polskich po morzu Japońskim*, „Czuj Duch”, 1924, issue 4, p. 54.

32 R. K. Daszkiewicz, *Harcerstwo polskie poza granicami kraju od zarania do 1930 roku w relacjach i dokumentach*, ed. L. Formela, Lublin 1983, p. 175.

33 Scouting Museum (Muzeum Harcerstwa, MH), Relacja o Drużynie Harcerskiej we Władywostoku 1917–1918, [E. Ajewski, *Blask Złotego Rogu*], sign. ZHL/565, p. 10.

34 A. Gregorkiewicz, *Wychowanie wodne młodzieży polskiej na Dalekim Wschodzie*, „Młody Sybirak”, 1938, issue 3–4, p. 12.

settlements. As the tragic testimonies of the fate of children reached Vladivostok activists, they began to organize aid with even greater determination.³⁵ However, as it was impossible to provide help to Polish orphans on the spot, they decided to designate Vladivostok as the final assembly point for further evacuation. Equipped with all the PCR's powers of attorney, Jakóbkiewicz only reached Chita. There, in the chaos of the Bolshevik offensive, he organized an ad hoc rescue operation along the Trans-Siberian railway line.³⁶

Jakóbkiewicz also used his abilities to provide medical assistance during the evacuation of soldiers of the 5th Siberian Rifle Division, which took place in dramatic circumstances and harsh climatic conditions.³⁷ The situation of soldiers and their families was particularly tragic after the forced capitulation in the Krasnoyarsk region in January 1920. Having been robbed and arrested by the Bolsheviks, they were sentenced to hard labour, and suffered from hunger, frost and epidemic diseases.³⁸ Some of the soldiers who survived the capitulation and their families stopped in Vladivostok on their way back to Poland.³⁹ From there, they were evacuated in one of the transports in August 1920. Jakóbk-

35 An exemplary account of the fate of children dying in an abandoned wagon obtained from one of the witnesses-escapees from that period was included by Jakóbkiewicz in a fictionalized story he wrote under a pseudonym: 'On the corpses of mothers and fathers, he saw frail figures of dying children wrapped in their parents' clothes, barely moving. ... "When I looked at it more closely," he recounted, "I understood everything. Apparently, the parents, wanting to save their children from starvation, gave them all the food, denying it to themselves, and to protect themselves from the cold, wrapped the frail bodies of the children in their own clothes. So, they died first and only then were the children freezing on their corpses"; K. J. Jacyna [J. Jakóbkiewicz], *Kołotuszka*, p. 243.

36 [J. Jakóbkiewicz], *Polski Komitet Ratunkowy*, p. 3.

37 E. Hera, *Z biegiem lat, z biegiem wydarzeń...*, Chotomów 1992.

38 The surviving soldiers were evacuated to Poland with the support of the French mission in Vladivostok, and assistance to the civilian population was provided by consulates in Vladivostok and Harbin. H. Bagiński, *Wojsko Polskie na Wschodzie*, p. 588.

39 The Polish garrison in Vladivostok consisted of, among others, the Square Command, also known as the assembly point. There were over 900 soldiers in March 1920 (including officers and soldiers, officials, doctors, medical professionals, and sisters of mercy). It should be noted that in the evacuation plans prepared in the summer and autumn of 1919 by the command of the 5th Siberian Division, Vladivostok was established as a barracks base for 13,000 people. D. Radziwiłłowicz, *Polskie formacje zbrojne*, pp. 386, 462–463.

kiewicz was also actively involved in the fight against epidemics. He struggled with the numerous waves of epidemics (cholera, typhus and plague) in that region until the summer of 1920,⁴⁰ after which the PCR sent him as a delegate on a mission to the United States. Based on the experience gained, specialist reports were then prepared, describing the fight against the plague of these diseases, as well as reports on preventive measures taken in connection with the spread of epidemics in urban conditions.⁴¹

Before he departed for America, Jakóbkiewicz continued his work with the PCR which, having limited financial resources, organized various types of assistance for his compatriots in Siberia. The committee’s actions included financial, food, housing, medical, clothing, cultural and educational assistance, as well as job placement.⁴² Among the many social activities undertaken by the doctor in the Far East region, his care and educational activity for the youngest came to the fore in the 1920s. In the second half of 1920, Jakóbkiewicz left Vladivostok to win over the Americans on behalf of the PCR to collect funds necessary for the evacuation of Siberian children to Poland. He also continued to be actively involved in the aid campaign, leading to the repatriation of 877 children (in three stages, using both sea and land routes).⁴³ Later, from

40 The pneumonic plague brought from the adjacent Chinese provinces was particularly severe and Vladivostok struggled with it until 1921. С. М. Васильевич, *Очерки истории чумы: В 2-х кн. Кн. II: Чума бактериологического периода. Забытые эпидемии легочной чумы на Дальнем Востоке (1921–1922)*, <https://www.supotnitskiy.ru/book/book3-33.htm>, accessed: 23.06.2023; С. Корнилов, *Эпидемия чумы 1921 года во Владивостоке*, https://vladlib.ru/n12_01_21_4, accessed: 23.06.2023.

41 GBL, MJJ, Archiwum maszynopisów, Curriculum vitae, sign. I-188, b.p.

42 Echo Dalekiego Wschodu o Polskim Komitecie Ratunkowym uchodźców z Syberii, <http://poloniajaponica.jp/zycie-w-japonii/item/636-echo-dalekiego-wschodu-o-polskim-komitecie-ratunkowym-uchod%C5%BAC%C3%B3w-z-syberii>, accessed: 23.06.2023.

43 For the circumstances of the work of PCR activists in the United States and Japan and a detailed description of the evacuation action, see: W. Theiss, *Akcja pomocy dzieciom polskim, ofiarom wojny światowej na Dalekim Wschodzie. 1919–1923*, „Przegląd Historyczno-Oświatowy”, 26 (1983) issue 3(101), pp. 286–295; idem, *Dzieci Syberyjskie. Dzieje polskich dzieci repatriowanych z Syberii i Mandżurii w latach 1919–1923*, Warszawa 1992; T. Matsumoto, W. Theiss, *Dzieci syberyjskie. Pomoc Japonii dla dzieci polskich z Syberii, 1919–1922*, Warszawa 2009; *Syberyjskie dzieci Cesarzowej Japonii: konferencja. Pomoc Japonii dzieciom polskim z Syberii w latach 1919–1922*, eds. M. Piechowska, K. Zuber, Warszawa 2019; W. Theiss, *Dzieci syberyjskie 1919–2019. Z Syberii przez Japonię i Stany Zjednoczone do Polski*, Kraków 2020.

1923 to 1928, he monitored the care and education programme at the Educational Centre for Siberian Children in Wejherowo.⁴⁴ In his pedagogical work, he used the scout ideals developed in Vladivostok⁴⁵. In the late 1920s, he finally returned to the medical profession⁴⁶, achieving success in the fields of tropical and spa medicine.

Conclusions

At the beginning of his medical career, Józef Jakóbkiewicz became a guardian and educator of the so-called Far Eastern children, undertaking many activities to bring them to their homeland. With great commitment, he devoted several years of his life to providing support and financial security for the Siberian orphans' evacuation programme. By engaging in social work, not only did he postpone his return to Poland, but he also risked delaying his scientific development in the field of medicine. Jakóbkiewicz was a social activist not only due to external circumstances but also because of his desire and motivation. This was influenced by both the values he had acquired at home and the strong

- 44 The pedagogical work programme was defined in a set of educational instructions, and Jakóbkiewicz's relations with his pupils were largely based on intuition, patience and gentleness. The doctor's personality was so distinct that in a survey conducted among the institute's pupils in 1927 on the subject of the ideal man, 25% of the respondents indicated him as a role model. Jagiellonian Library (Biblioteka Jagiellońska), Oddział Zbiorów Specjalnych [Polski Komitet Ratunkowy Dzieci Dalekiego Wschodu (Władywostok)], *Materiały dot. genezy i organizacji Zakładu Wychowawczego Dzieci Syberyjskich w Wejherowie 1919–1928, Ankieta III: Odpowiedź na punkt 10-ty z ankiety przeprowadzonej w Zakładzie Wychowawczym Dzieci Syberyjskich w Wejherowie dnia 16 grudnia 1927 r.*, sign. Przyb. 301/68, pp. 108–109; J. Jakóbkiewicz, *Zakład Wychowawczy Dzieci Syberyjskich*, „Echo Dalekiego Wschodu”, 1929, issue 2 (12), p. 30; H. Nowicka, *Spacer w chmurach*, Warszawa 2005, p. 49.
- 45 The spread of the idea of maritime education in Wejherowo began with the reactivation and placement of the Siberian Scout Troop in the facility (September 10, 1925). Many of the facility's graduates later linked their adult professional lives with the merchant and naval navies; MH, *Harcerstwo poza granicami Kraju 1917–1939 [Charbin]*, sign. MHAR/11-39/6/1-7, p. 24; B. Rybałko, *Jerzy Strzałkowski*, Warszawa 2016, p. 12.
- 46 A. Brodniewicz, *Józef Jakóbkiewicz M.D., Pioneer of Maritime and Tropical Medicine in Poland*, „Bulletin of the Institute of Maritime and Tropical Medicine in Gdynia”, 31 (1980) issue 1–2, p. 7.

character traits that emerged during the difficult war conditions, which did not allow Jakóbkiewicz to remain indifferent to the fate of children. The roles of doctor and social activist, which he took on at different moments in his life, make up this interesting biography.

Streszczenie: Artykuł prezentuje kluczowy moment w biografii Józefa Jakóbkiewicza, lekarza, działacza społecznego i harcerskiego, który miał przełomowe znaczenie dla Jego aktywności życiowej i zawodowej. „Epizod murmański” z 1918 r., związany ze zmianą trasy w trakcie wydostawania się z terenów Rosji Sowieckiej, spowodował zwrot Jakóbkiewicza ku działalności opiekuńczo-wychowawczej. Mając za sobą odbycie służby wojskowej w czasie I wojny światowej oraz pracę na posadach lekarza na Syberii, Jakóbkiewicz zaangażował się w latach 1919–1923 w akcję przewiezienia dzieci syberyjskich do Polski. Pomoc dzieciom z Syberii rozwijał też po powrocie do kraju, po czym w drugiej połowie lat dwudziestych powrócił do zawodu lekarza. Wątek biograficzny ujęty w artykule skupia się na wczesnym etapie Jego życia, poprzedzającym znany z literatury przedmiotu, dorobek na rzecz pomocy dzieciom w okresie międzywojennym. Na potrzeby opracowania tekstu, pozyskano materiały biograficzne z zasobów Archiwum Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego oraz Głównej Biblioteki Lekarskiej. W artykule scharakteryzowano tło wydarzeń historycznych i sytuacji społeczno-politycznej, którego zrozumienie stanowi klucz do zaprezentowania zróżnicowanej drogi życiowej Jakóbkiewicza.

Słowa kluczowe: Józef Jakóbkiewicz, Murmańsk, Polski Komitet Ratunkowy we Władystoku, Zakład Wychowawczy Dzieci Syberyjskich w Wejherowie.

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