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**Vitaliy VYZDRYK**

*PhD hab. (History), Associate Professor of the Department of Humanitarian Sciences, Institute for Moral and Psychological Support, Hetman Petro Sahaidachnyi National Army Academy, 32 Heroes of Maidan Street, Lviv, Ukraine, postal code 79026 (v.vyzdryk05@gmail.com)*

**ORCID:** 0000-0001-5427-5825

**Kostiantyn KURYLYSHYN**

*PhD (History), Head of the Department of Ukrainian Studies of Vasyl Stefanyk National Scientific Library of Ukraine in Lviv, 2 Stefanyk Street, Lviv, Ukraine, postal code 79000 (kurylyshyn\_k@ukr.net)*

**ORCID:** 0000-0003-0104-7292

**Віталій ВИЗДРИК**

*доктор історичних наук, доцент кафедри гуманітарних наук Інституту морально-психологічного забезпечення Національної академії сухопутних військ імені Петра Сагайдачного, вул. Героїв Майдану, 32, м. Львів, Україна, індекс 79026 (v.vyzdryk05@gmail.com)*

**Костянтин КУРИЛИШИН**

*кандидат історичних наук, завідувач відділу україніки Львівської національної наукової бібліотеки України ім. В. Стефаніка, вул. Стефаніка, 2, м. Львів, Україна, індекс 79000 (kurylyshyn\_k@ukr.net)*

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**UKRAINIAN CITIZENS' COMMITTEE IN 1918 – 1921  
(ACCORDING TO THE MATERIALS OF THE PERIODICAL “DILO”)**

**Abstract.** *The purpose of the article is to analyze the activities of the Ukrainian Citizens' Committee concerning social welfare, legal protection, and medical assistance to the Ukrainian prisoners of war, interned soldiers, and war invalids based on the materials of the periodical “Dilo”. **The Research Methodology.** The methodological basis of the research is based on the principles of objectivity and historicism, with observance of general scientific and special historical methods of analysis, which make it possible to reveal the importance of sections activities of the Ukrainian Citizens' Committee in the field of social protection of the population of the region, care of war invalids, orphans, the Ukrainian soldiers, providing them with material, legal, moral and medical assistance. **The scientific novelty** consists in elucidating the main activity areas of the Ukrainian Citizens' Committee based on the materials of the periodical “Dilo”, which was aimed at resolving social care, legal protection and assistance to internees, relocated people and victims of war. The periodical's published materials about the living conditions of prisoners of war, assistance to the invalids, which contributed to the improvement of their social protection, have been analyzed; the activities of the Ukrainian Citizens' Committee*

regarding the maintenance of war graves and commemoration of the dead have been highlighted. **The Conclusions.** Thus, the foundation of the Ukrainian Citizens' Committee, the periodical “Dilo” covered in detail the directions of its activities under the difficult socio-political conditions of the Polish occupation and national resistance. The Committee was the only legal national institution that represented the interests of the Ukrainians, participating in the social protection of various strata of the Galician population, acting with the support of national, financial and cooperative institutions, the Greek Catholic Church. Despite the ban on the activities of the Ukrainian Citizens' Committee, its organizational branches and sections became the basis for the creation of a number of separate societies, in particular, the Ukrainian Medical Society, the Union of Ukrainian Lawyers, the Ukrainian Society for Assistance to the Invalids, and the illegal Committee for Assistance to Political Prisoners.

**Key words:** Ukrainian Citizens' Committee, the periodical “Dilo”, social care, war victims, national resistance.

### УКРАЇНСЬКИЙ ГОРОЖАНСЬКИЙ КОМІТЕТ 1918 – 1921 рр. (ЗА МАТЕРІАЛАМИ ЧАСОПISY “ДІЛО”)

**Анотація. Метою статті** є аналіз діяльності Українського горожанського комітету щодо соціальної опіки, правового захисту, медичної допомоги українським полоненим, інтернованим воякам та інвалідам війни за матеріалами газети “Діло”. **Методологія дослідження.** Методологічна основа дослідження базується на принципах об'єктивності та історизму, з дотриманням загальнонаукових і спеціально-історичних методів аналізу, які дають змогу розкрити значимість діяльності секцій Українського горожанського комітету у сфері соціального захисту населення краю, турботою над інвалідами війни, сиротами, українськими вояками, наданням їм матеріальної, правової, моральної та медичної допомоги. **Наукова новизна** полягає у висвітленні основних напрямів діяльності Українського горожанського комітету за матеріалами часопису “Діло”, яка була спрямована на запровадження соціальної опіки, правового захисту та допомоги інтернованим, переселенцям і жертвам війни. Проаналізовано опубліковані матеріали часопису про умови проживання військовополонених, допомогу інвалідам, що сприяло поліпшенню їхнього соціального захисту; діяльність Українського горожанського комітету щодо догляду воєнних могил та вшанування пам'яті загиблих. **Висновки.** З часу заснування Українського горожанського комітету часопис “Діло” детально висвітлював напрями його діяльності у складних суспільно-політичних умовах польської окупації та національного спротиву. Комітет був єдиною легальною національною інституцією, що презентував інтереси українства, долучаючись до соціального захисту різних верств населення Галичини, діючи за підтримки національних фінансових та кооперативних установ, греко-католицької церкви. Незважаючи на заборону діяльності Українського горожанського комітету, його організаційні підрозділи та секції стали підґрунтям для створення низки окремих товариств, зокрема Українського лікарського товариства, Союзу українських адвокатів, Українського товариства допомоги інвалідам, нелегального Комітету допомоги політичним в'язням.

**Ключові слова:** Український горожанський комітет, часопис “Діло”, соціальна опіка, жертви війни, національний супротив.

**The Problem Statement.** During World War I, the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and national liberation struggle, the traditions of national self-organization of the Ukrainian population of Eastern Galicia, which were initiated at the end of the 19th century by public associations, continued: “Prosvita”, Ruthenian (Ruske) Pedagogical Society, “Dniester”, “Silsky Hospodar”. It was those societies which created the prerequisites for the development of the Ukrainian national life under the conditions of the Polish occupation and laid the foundation for emergence and development of new Ukrainian public organizations. The periodical “Dilo” highlighted and informed the Ukrainian population of the region about important events and their consequences, which reflected social realities, and contributed to the formation of public opinion.

**The Analysis of Sources and Recent Researches.** Research on the activities of the Ukrainian Citizens' Committee (hereinafter – UCC) was done in the scientific works of such scholars as: O. Bezhuk (Bezhuk, 2011), M. Serediuk (Serediuk, 2019), I. Bilavych, H. Bilavych, B. Savchuk (Bilavych, Bilavych & Savchuk, 2017), O. Luhova (Luhova, 2018), L. Davybida (Davybida, 2014), M. Pavlenko (Pavlenko, 1999). The protection of the national minorities interests, on the eve of World War I and during the interwar period, in the western Ukrainian lands became the object of scientific research by V. Vyzdryk, K. Kurylyshyn (Vyzdryk & Kurylyshyn, 2020), I. Soliar, Kh. Sholota (Soliar & Sholota, 2019).

Analysis of scientific publications gives us reason to state that this topic needs further elaboration. The source base of the research is formed on the basis of the periodical “Dilo”.

**The purpose of the article** is the analysis of the Ukrainian Citizens' Committee activities and its role in solving social problems and protecting the Ukrainian population of Eastern Galicia, which was widely covered in the columns of the periodical “Dilo”. In the periodical there were highlighted the areas of sections activity aimed at improving the sanitary and hygienic living conditions of prisoners of war, internees and invalids who were victims of military operations and providing them with medical, material and legal assistance.

**The Results of the Research.** It should be noted that the history of the periodical from September of 1914 to April of 1923 is the history of the struggle for the right to have its own press, which would cover the national interests of the residents of Eastern Galicia.

During the Russian occupation of Lviv, the editorial office was forced to move to Vienna, where the periodical “Dilo” was published as a weekly one from September 19, 1914 till July 31, 1915. The resumption of activity of the periodical “Dilo” took place on September 12, 1915 as a daily one under the editorship of V. Paneiko in Lviv and lasted until November 29, 1918, however, due to a ban by the Polish authorities, the periodical ceased being published. From January 1 till September 26, 1920, “Hromadska Dumka” was published instead of the periodical “Dilo”, and from October 6 till November 13, 1920, the name was changed into “Ukrayinska Dumka”. From January 25, 1921, the name was changed into “Ukrayinsky Visnyk”, which was published until September of 29 of the same year. During the year of 1922, the name was changed three times (“Hromadsky Vistnyk”, “Dilo”, “Svoboda”) and only in April of 1923 the name “Dilo” was returned to the periodical finally (Kurylyshyn, 2021).

In the periodical, among the publications, during the period under analysis, an important place belongs to materials that elucidated important aspects of the Ukrainian Citizens' Committee activity. Its establishment in Lviv (December of 1918) was conditioned by the need to represent the interests of the Ukrainian population to the Polish occupation authorities and to organize assistance to those in need, primarily the Ukrainian prisoners and internees. This is the extract written in the periodical: “Many Ukrainians left Lviv, or were taken to internment camps, then in Lviv there was a group of people among the Ukrainian community who managed to obtain permission given by the Polish authorities to organize the Ukrainian Citizens' Committee and it began hard work immediately .... just to ease the fate of our prisoners and internees” (Nashi humanitarni tovarystva i kruh yikh diialnosti, 1921).

At that time, the majority of other Ukrainian institutions were forced to stop their activities, in particular, the publication of the periodical “Dilo” was stopped.

In order to legalize the activity of the society under conditions of the Polish occupation, the UCC statute was elaborated, which was approved by the governorship in Lviv at the end of June of 1920. The Committee, whose central bodies were located on Ruska street,

received the right to establish povit and city branches (in some places they had been already working on the basis of permits by local civil and military authorities) (Yak osnovuvaty, 1920). The activities of a legal organization were carried out at the expense of membership fees and voluntary donations. To become a benefactor-member, it was necessary to pay at least 1,000 Polish marks. The UCC also gained some support among representatives of the higher clergy, in particular Metropolitan A. Sheptytsky, and many Ukrainian political and public figures (Dvaitsiat novykh chleniv-dobrodiiv "Ukr. Hor. Komitetu", 1921; 15 Postiinykh chleniv "Ukrainskoho Horozhanskoho Komitetu", 1921). In the periodical it was noted that "the UCC is a purely humanitarian organization that has gathered the best and most reliable units, without differences of political or social views, due to its work it has won a full trust and gratitude among its people, and even strangers must respect it" (Nashi humanitarni tovarystva i kruh yikh diialnosti, 1921). The founders were well-known figures of Eastern Galicia: S. Fedak (a head), M. Panchyshyn, L. Hankevych, V. Tselevych, O. Sheparovych, Fr. L. Kunytsky, and the others, "One day, history will properly assess the merits of that group of people and the multitude of their devoted work, and the names: Fedak, Studynsky, Hankevych, Tsilevych, Halushchynsky, Panchyshyn, Meletsky will be remembered with a deep respect as those provident workers, that among the most difficult waves and hardships for the people, they gave them support with their chests, regardless of whether they themselves are imprisoned tomorrow..." – it was reported in the periodical (Nashi humanitarni tovarystva i kruh yikh diialnosti, 1921).

As a result of complex negotiations between the Ukrainian public institutions and the Polish military administration, it was possible to reach some understanding regarding the activities of the UCC. In the periodical it was noted that in these negotiations an important role was played by the international obligations of the Polish authorities to ensure the rights of national minorities (Yak osnovuvaty okruzhni i mistsevi tovarystva "Ukrainskyi Horozhanskyi Komitet", 1920).

The activity of the UCC can be conditionally divided into two periods – the first one was limited only to Lviv and lasted from the end of 1918 till May of 1919, and the second one – from the summer of 1919, when the Committee expanded its network of povit and local branches, which covered all areas of Eastern Galicia. According to the periodical materials, in the spring of 1920, the UCC network was reorganized and 46 povit committees were established, which were under constant pressure and persecution of the Polish authorities. Thus, in contrast to reports on the establishment and operation of the UCC representative offices in various Galician towns, for example in Zalishchyky ("Povitovy Ukrainskyi Horozhanskyi Komitet" v Zalishchykakh, 1920), Kolomyia (Poklyk Ukrainskoho Hor. Komitetu v Kolomyi, 1920), Pidhaitsi (Ukrainskyi Horozhanskyi Komitet v Pidhaitsiakh, 1920), In Rudky (O. U. H. K. v Rudkakh, 1921), Ternopil (Z Ternopolia, 1921), already beginning on July of 1921, the periodical informed only about the ban on the activities of another humanitarian institution, in particular in Burshtyn (Zaborona diialnosti Ukrainskoho Horozhanskoho Komitetu v Burshtyni, 1921), Kalush (Zakryttia Ukrainskoho Horozhanskoho Komitetu v Kalushi, 1921), Kolomyia and Stryi (Nyshchat humanitarni instytutysii!!!, 1921), in Sambir (Nyshchat, 1921). On September 25, 1921 the situation worsened, after the assassination attempt on the head of the Polish state J. Piłsudski and voivode V. Grabski, when the arrests of the leadership and members of the UCC began. The Ukrainian press called this day "Black Sunday" (Chorna nedilia u Lvovi, 1921). On October 19, 1921, the Polish authorities finally banned the association's activities finally.

The activities of the UCC were charitable in nature and functioned on donations from private individuals, unions and societies. It should be noted that at the beginning of the establishment of the UCC, its structure consisted of such sections as the samaritan, the arrested and prisoners of the war, the assistance to the interned, assistance to the population who lived in the Pre-Carpathian poviats, legal aid (legal advice), governmental aid, school aid, “American aid”. Subsequently, sections for the protection of the war graves, care of the invalids, assistance to the starving population, and assistance to emigrants from Naddniprianska Ukraine, as well as university commission and a labour mediation bureau, were established.

Among the periodical’s publications, an important place belongs to the materials on the work of the sections of the UCC. One of the activities of the Committee was the care of the Ukrainian prisoners of war. From the autumn of 1919 till the spring of 1920, a typhus epidemic raged in the region, which worsened the already difficult situation in the prisoners of war camps and internees. The periodical informed its readers about the high mortality in the camps, in particular in Pikulychiv and Brest-Lytovsk. The delegation of the International Red Cross, which arrived at the internment camp in Brest-Lytovsk, saw the critical condition of the Ukrainian prisoners who lived in unsanitary conditions and lack of medical care (Ukrainskyi Horozhanskyi Komitet v spravi areshtovanykh i uviaznyykh, 1920).

It should be noted the activity of the samaritan section of the UCC, which from the beginning of its existence (November 29, 1918) compiled lists of the Ukrainian prisoners of war, interned and deceased soldiers. Due to cooperation with the International Red Cross, it managed to find more than 2,000 missing Ukrainian soldiers. The section took care of the distribution of humanitarian aid among prisoners, and also provided wounded Ukrainian soldiers with lunches in Lviv. “The action of feeding the internees covers from 50 to 200 people in different months; 1,500 – 6,000 lunches are given to soldiers per month” (Ukrainskyi Hor. Komitet v Kolomyi i ratunkova aktsiia Hutsulshchyny, 1920). Owing to the activities of the Committee, thousands of the Ukrainian prisoners, internees who were in a difficult situation in Polish camps received help (V spravi zvilnennia polonenykh, 1920). In the periodical the legal aid section provided advice “...to the families of internees and prisoners and settled various legal matters” (Ukrainskyi Hor. Komitet v Kolomyi i ratunkova aktsiia Hutsulshchyny, 1920).

Due to the oppression and persecution of the participants of the Ukrainian liberation struggle by the Polish authorities, the UCC started taking care of veterans and invalids of the UGA and the Army of the Ukrainian People’s Republic, by organizing the registration and collection of funds for payment of material assistance. Owing to the Committee, on September 1, 1920, the “Home of the Ukrainian Invalids” and “Guardianship of the Invalids” section were established in Lviv (Konkurs, 1920). It should be noted that according to the 1921 law on the material and social support of the war veterans, Poland deprived of any support those who fought against it.

In October of 1920, a meeting was held under the leadership of the head of the UCC, S. Fedak, at which the issue of famine in the foothills povits was discussed; war orphans, widows and orphans of soldiers of the Ukrainian armies; the Ukrainian private schools and bursaries, academic youth; political prisoners, internees and captives; the Ukrainian officials; military invalids; general unemployment; Ukrainian institutions (Ratuimo sebe!, 1920).

In the same month, at the meeting with the Polish Minister of Justice, the UCC representatives raised the issue of the illegal dismissal of the Ukrainians from their positions or

their transfer to secondary positions (the Ukrainian judges and employees of the prosecutor's office were meant), demanded an end to the prosecution of civil servants of the ZUNR period and soldiers of the Galician army, to amnesty political prisoners. None of the conditions was fulfilled, although "the minister promised sincerely to deal with the cases raised" (U polskoho ministra spravedlyvosti, 1920).

At the beginning of November of 1920, "Ukrainska Dumka" published the appeal "To the Ukrainian Population of America!", in which it was stated that "we will not get help from the others", hope is only in ourselves and "in you, Brothers and Sisters, in America". The document substantiated the need for a quick forwarding of collected funds and was signed by representatives of the Ukrainian Citizens' Committee, the Ukrainian Regional Society for Child Protection and Youth Care, the Ukrainian Pedagogical Society, "Prosvita" Society, the Ukrainian War Widows and Orphans Fund, the Ukrainian Diocesan Committee for the Care of War Orphans, the "Ukrainian Zahoronka" Society (Do ukrainskoho naseleння Ameryky!, 1920).

The editors of the periodical focused on the activities of the Regional Committee for Maintenance of War Graves and Monuments, established on May 31, 1921 as a section of the Ukrainian Civil Service for the purpose of making the only register and maintenance of the graves of heroes who died in the battles for the Ukrainian statehood. The work began in Lviv cemeteries, in particular, more than 150 graves were arranged in Lychakivsky cemetery, and several hundred graves in Yanivsky cemetery. Before the Whitsun Holiday, the graves had to be tidied and crosses of certain sizes should be erected. During the Whitsun Holiday, laying of wreaths and flowers, church services in the UGCC temples, and commemoration of fallen heroes were planned (Okhorona mohyl heroiv, 1921; Kraievyi Komitet okhorony voiennykh mohyl, 1921; Na mohylakh nezvisnykh heroiv na Zamarstynovi, 1922). "And we will come to Their graves, which have covered all land in rows. And we will come to worship the ashes of those who rose up in one motion, like a spontaneous and formidable avalanche with the slogan: Free Ukraine! Who fought for the highest right: to live freely, but also to die freely, not as a helot under someone else's and master's hedge, not as a slave with a bent spine, not in a yoke, proud and without glory, but a free son of a free state" (Tym, shcho vpaly, 1921).

The newspaper also highlighted the facts of vandalism to the Ukrainian burials during the Polish-Ukrainian war period and inaction of the authorities. Thus, in May of 1920, there were recorded ruined crosses and plaques with the names of buried Ukrainian soldiers were recorded, which made it impossible to identify the burial (Vandalizm, 1920). Another recorded act of vandalism took place on February 18, 1922, when the graves of four Ukrainian Sich riflemen were dug up and taken to an unknown destination. The Ukrainian Sich riflemen were buried near the Lychakiv Palace in Lviv in 1918 (Nechuvane zvirstvo, 1922). Since May of 1922, the leadership of Lviv police prohibited the collection of donations near churches, which were intended for the care and conservation of war graves (Zaborona zbirky na konservatsiiu voiennykh mohyl, 1922).

**The Conclusions.** During the period under analysis, the periodical was published under different names: "Hromadska Dumka", "Ukrayinska Dumka", "Ukrayinsky Visnyk", "Svoboda". Its columns reflected the activities of the Ukrainian Citizens' Committee, which was aimed at the social protection of various strata of the Ukrainian population of the region, in particular, to improve the living conditions of prisoners of war and internees who suffered as a result of military operations and provide them with medical, material and legal assistance.

The periodical "Dilo" informed its readers about the creation of the UCC, its leadership and organizational structure, reported on the establishment of povit and town branches, as

well as on the ban of their activities and persecution by the Polish authorities. The editorial staff of the periodical, together with UCC and other public associations, called on the Ukrainian diaspora of America to join the collection of financial aid.

Under the conditions of the Polish occupation and despite the fact that the activity of the UCC was short-lived (from December of 1918 till September of 1921), the Committee managed, as far as possible, to improve the social protection and financial situation of the Ukrainian soldiers, organized meals for prisoners, collected clothes, etc. The Committee took care of honouring the memory of the heroes who died in the battles for the Ukrainian statehood (collection of donations for the maintenance of graves, erection of crosses, organization of religious services). Due to the ban on the activities of the Ukrainian Citizens' Committee, its organizational branches and sections became the basis for the creation of a number of separate societies, in particular, the Ukrainian Medical Society, the Union of Ukrainian Lawyers, the Ukrainian Society for Assistance to the Invalids, the Illegal Committee for Assistance to Political Prisoners, which continued the deed of the UCC.

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