

= Stanisław Żółkiewski =

Stanisław Żółkiewski (1547 ? 1620) was a Polish nobleman of the Lubicz coat of arms , magnate and military commander of the Polish ? Lithuanian Commonwealth , who took part in many campaigns of the Commonwealth and on its southern and eastern borders . He occupied a number of high @-@ ranking posts in the administration of the Commonwealth , including castellan of L 'viv (from 1590) , voivod of the Kiev Voivodeship and Great Chancellor of the Crown (from 1618) . From 1588 he was also a Field Crown Hetman , and in 1613 was promoted to Grand Hetman of the Crown . During his military career he won major battles against Sweden , Muscovy , the Ottoman Empire and the Tatars .

Żółkiewski 's best @-@ known victory was against combined Russian and Swedish forces at the battle of Klushino in 1610 , in the aftermath of which the Poles seized and occupied Moscow . He died in the 1620 battle of Cecora against the Ottomans , after allegedly refusing to retreat . Already renowned as a military leader , Żółkiewski 's heroic death further boosted his fame . He is seen as one of the most accomplished military commanders in the history of the Polish ? Lithuanian Commonwealth .

= = Biography = =

= = = Youth = = =

Stanisław Żółkiewski was born in the village of Turynka in 1547 to Stanisław Żółkiewski of the Lubicz coat of arms , voivode of Ruthenia , and Zofia Lipska . The exact date of his birth is unknown , and even the year is disputed : most sources agree on 1547 , although a few suggest 1550 .

Żółkiewski attended a cathedral school in Lwów (now L 'viv , Ukraine) . Unlike many of his peers he had no higher education and did not travel abroad . However , he pursued studies on his own and was particularly interested in history and historical literature . In 1566 he joined the court of King Sigismund II Augustus , as an aid to the king 's secretary Jan Zamoyski . There he became familiar with the executionist movement , which advocated numerous reforms including military ones . In 1573 he took part in the diplomatic mission to France , sent to meet a newly elected king Henry III of France , and on his way back he was sent to Vienna to appease the Habsburgs .

= = = Early career = = =

Żółkiewski gained his first military experience under King Stefan Batory during the Danzig rebellion in which he commanded a rota of Polish hussars . He subsequently participated in Batory 's Livonian campaign , fighting at Polotsk , Rossony (Sokół) , Velizh and at the Siege of Pskov . Żółkiewski maintained his political alliance with the Zamoyski family after those campaigns ended , particularly in their conflict with the Zborowscy . On the night of 11 to 12 May 1584 he captured Samuel Zborowski , whose subsequent execution caused much controversy . Żółkiewski became notorious for his role in the incident , and was the subject of heated debates during the Sejm of 1585 .

In 1588 , during the War of the Polish Succession between factions of Sigismund III Vasa and Maximilian III , Żółkiewski supported Sigismund . Żółkiewski commanded the right flank of Commonwealth forces in the battle of Byczyna , during which he received a knee wound that lamed him for the remainder of his life . For his part in the battle he was appointed a Field Crown Hetman , and became the starost of Hrubieszów .

= = = As Field Crown Hetman = = =

Soon after becoming a Hetman , Żółkiewski was sent to Ukraine to repel a Tatar invasion . In 1590 he became the castellan of Lwów , but his requests for military reinforcements against the Tatars

went unheeded .

In 1595 ?ó?kiewski participated in the Moldavian campaign and the battle of Cecora near the Prut river . The following year he defeated the Cossack uprising of Severyn Nalivaiko . ?ó?kiewski was a known supporter of Cossack grievances , and generally favored peaceful negotiations with them . When the Cossacks surrendered Nalivaiko and other leaders of the uprising to him he guaranteed their fair treatment . But Nalivaiko was subsequently executed in Warsaw , and a mob of Polish soldiers massacred the other prisoners , which led to a deterioration in Polish @-@ Cossack relations . In 1600 ?ó?kiewski returned to Moldova , where he took part in the victorious battle of Bukowo .

In 1601 ?ó?kiewski operated in the north , in Livonia (Inflanty) , during the Polish ? Swedish War . He also took part in the successful siege of Wolmar , and in 1602 the taking of Fellin . That same year he led Polish forces at the battle of Reval , which led to a Swedish capitulation at the siege of Bia?y Kamie? . ?ó?kiewski became ill near the end of the campaign and had to relinquish command of his forces to Hetman Jan Karol Chodkiewicz .

In 1606 ?ó?kiewski returned to Ukraine , where he defeated the Tatars at the battle of Udyecz . Later that year he decided to support the king during the Zebrzydowski 's Rebellion . His decision was not an obvious one , as his mentor Zamoyski opposed the king . Additionally , ?ó?kiewski was related to the Zebrzydowski family and was sympathetic to some of the rebels ' arguments . In the battle of Guzów he commanded the left flank of the royal forces , but his troops took relatively little part in the battle . Unimpressed with ?ó?kiewski 's performance , the king did not give him not the Grand Crown Hetmanship that he coveted , although he was appointed to the office of the voivode of Kiev .

In the second half of 1609 ?ó?kiewski took part in the Polish ? Muscovite War (also known as the Dymitriads) . He supported the election of W?adys?aw IV Vasa for the tsar of Russia and the idea of a personal union between the Commonwealth and the Tsardom of Russia (the Polish @-@ Muscovite union) . During the De la Gardie Campaign in 1610 he achieved another significant victory against combined Russian and Swedish forces at the battle of Klushino . As a result of his successful campaign ?ó?kiewski seized Moscow and captured the tsar Vasiliy Shuyskiy and his brothers , Ivan Shuyskiy and Dmitri Shuyskiy . Zygmunt rejected ?ó?kiewski 's political plan however , which would have required W?adys?aw to convert to Orthodoxy .

?ó?kiewski began to write his memoirs after his return from Muscovy . The Poczetek i progres wojny moskiewskiej (The beginning and Progress of the Muscovy War) , published in 1612 , is a critique of Zygmunt 's policies . In 1612 he became a teacher and tutor of Stanis?aw Koniecpolski , future hetman and military commander . Also that year he returned to Ukraine to defend against continuing Tatar and Moldovan incursions , as well as Cossack unrest . In 1616 during a Sejm he presented a project O chowaniu ?o?nierz kwarcianego (On the raising of the kwarciane soldiers) , in which he argued for the need to raise a larger army to deal with the Tatars and the Cossacks . The project was however not approved by the parliament .

= = = Final years = = =

?ó?kiewski 's popularity waned in the latter years of his career . He was accused of not supporting Samuel Korecki during the battle of Sasowy Róg in 1616 , of signing the Treaty of Jaruga (Busza) in 1617 which relinquished influence in some borderlands to Moldova and the Ottoman Empire ; and of failing to stop the Tatars at the battle of Orynin in 1618 . But in 1618 he finally received his coveted bu?awa of the Grand Crown Hetman , and shortly afterwards the office of Grand Crown Chancellor . He was thus for a brief period the most powerful individual in the Commonwealth after the king , a position he reached not through wealth or family but by military achievement and reputation .

Despite being more than 70 years old , ?ó?kiewski continued in active service as a military commander until the very end . He died on 7 October 1620 , during the Commonwealth 's retreat after the battle of Cecora against the Turks , during the Polish ? Ottoman War (1620 ? 1621) which marked the end of the Moldavian campaigns . The battle comprised several engagements , in which

Polish forces were routed . During the last rout ?ólkiewski was killed ; according to an anecdote he refused to retreat , preferring to stay with the rear guard till the very end . Before his death he received the blessing of his confessor , Father Szymon Wybierski (Wybierski , Wyberek) of the Society of Jesus , who stood fearlessly at his side (7 October) . { see painting " Battle of Cecora (1620) " by Walery Eljasz Radzikowski }

After the battle ?ólkiewski 's corpse was desecrated by the removal of its head and sent to Constantinople as a trophy of war . His widow bought his body from the Turks and ransomed their son , who had been captured during the battle . ?ólkiewski was buried in St Lawrence Church in ?ólkiew (now Zhovkva , Ukraine) , the town he enlarged and where he built the ?ólkiew Castle .

= = Remembrance = =

?ólkiewski 's heroic death ? portrayed in several works of art by contemporaries such as Teofil Szemberg and Stanisław Witkowski ? boosted his reputation and guaranteed him a place among the pantheon of the most famous of Polish military commanders . In the years following his death he was mentioned in the works of writers such as Stefan ?eromski , Józef Szujski , Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz and Maria Konopnicka . Up to the present day , the story of his death is the best remembered aspect of his life , with a number of sources discussing the " legend of ?ólkiewski " .

A monument was built at the site of ?ólkiewski 's death (now in Berezovca in Ocni?a District , Moldova) by his son Jan , in 1621 . It is inscribed with a motto from Horace : " Quam dulce et decorum est pro patria mori " (How sweet and fitting it is to die for one 's country) . The monument was destroyed in 1868 , rebuilt in 1912 , and renovated in 2003 . It is a venue for events organized by the Polish minority in Moldova .

In 1903 a statue of ?ólkiewski was built in ?ólkiew , but it was demolished in 1939 by Soviet troops in the aftermath of the Soviet invasion of Poland . In modern Poland ?ólkiewski is celebrated as a military hero , but modern Russia 's Unity Day instead celebrates the anniversary of the surrender of the Polish forces he installed in the Moscow garrison . As of 2011 , the St. Lawrence 's Church and castle in ?ółkwia were being renovated by a team of Polish and Ukrainians conservators .

= = Family and assets = =

?ólkiewski was married to Regina Herbutówna ; they had a son , Jan , and two daughters , Katarzyna and Zofia . Over the course of his career ?ólkiewski amassed a large fortune , and acquired lands near Boryspil , Brody , Vinnytsia and ?ólkiew . His annual income of more than 100 @, @ 000 z?otys made him one of the wealthiest magnates in the Commonwealth . ?ólkiewski 's assets were eventually inherited by Jakub Sobieski , whose son Jan became a Polish king and another renowned Polish commander .

= = Works = =

Pocz?tek i progres wojny moskiewskiej (On the Beginning and the End of the Muscovite War , also known as The Beginning and Progress of the Muscovy War) ? ?ólkiewski 's memoirs describing his campaigns and diplomatic activity , written in the third person , and presenting a concise account of the Polish @-@ Muscovite War (1605 ? 1618) .