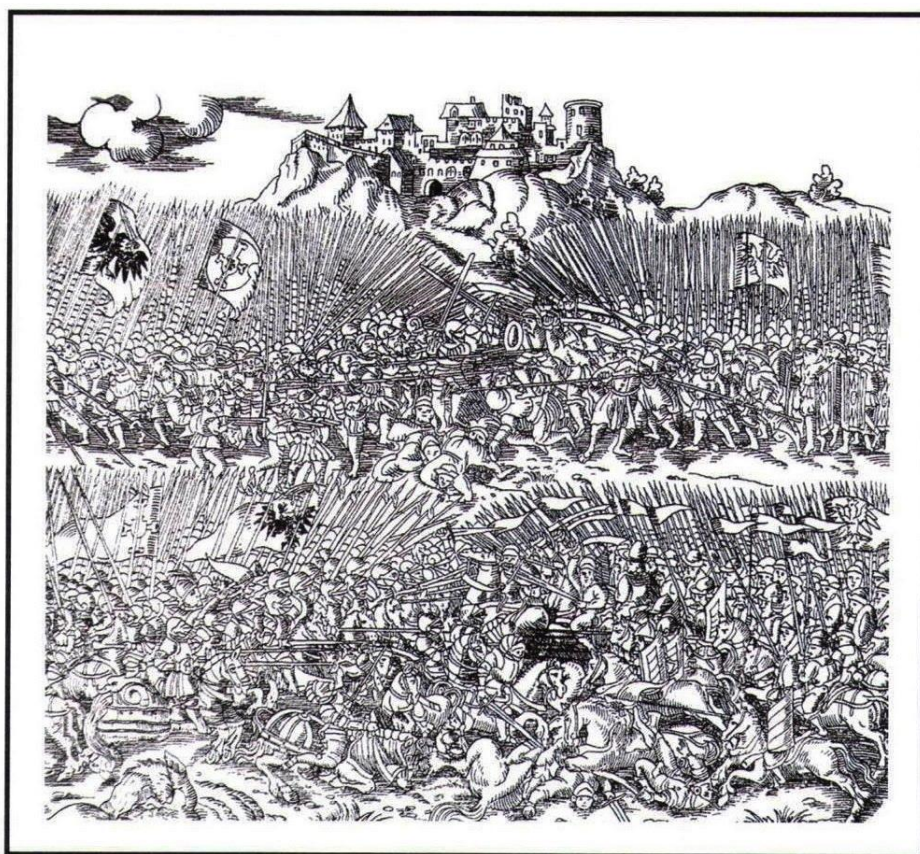


# POLISH BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS IN 13<sup>TH</sup>–19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES



WOJSKOWE CENTRUM EDUKACJI OBYWATELSKIEJ  
IM. PŁK. DYPL. MARIANA PORWITA

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*Battle against Theutonic Knights, XVI century drawing from Marcin Bielski's Kronika Polski*

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## Introduction

The thousand-year history of Poland and the Polish nation reveals many battles which not only changed the course of the history of Poland, but also other countries in Central and Eastern Europe. A team of Polish military historians from both civil and military circles wishes to present you with a selection of campaigns and battles fought by Polish armed forces, from the Battle of Legnica against Tataro-Mongolians in 1241, through the Battle of Grunwald against the Teutonic Knights in 1410, to the January Uprising of 1863–1864. The battles were selected according to their significance and results. Campaigns and battles are presented chronologically and each study has been appended with a drawing.

The book begins with texts on campaigns and battles of the middle ages in Poland (Legnica, Grunwald, Ukwiejsko). However, battles that are particularly interesting, especially from the point of view of general military history, are those fought during the Polish-Lithuanian Union, as during that period Poles were very eager to learn from their allies and enemies and incorporated new types of arms, military organisation, tactics and strategy into the Polish army. This led to the creation of the peculiar blend and distinctiveness of the Polish art of war which flourished in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Descriptions of campaigns and

battles from that period, starting with the Battle of Orsha (1514) and ending with the Vienna Campaign (1683), constitute the core of this work.

The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, which was the name of the state created by Poland and Lithuania after the Union of Lublin in 1569, was a military superpower at the time. Victories achieved in the battles of Kirchholm, Klushino, Berestechko, Chocim and Vienna made Polish cavalry famous throughout Europe. Above all, it was the hussars, who, with their daredevil charges that decided the course of campaigns, earned people's greatest respect.

Other important battles from the point of view of the history of the Polish army include battles fought in the name of sovereignty at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and armed attempts to regain independence at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. These problems are discussed in the last texts of the book.

The authors and editors of this work are aware that this is not a full record of the history of the Polish army. Nevertheless, they hope that the book will be warmly received and plan to continue the subject in the form of studies on selected campaigns and battles fought by the Polish Armed Forces in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.