

On the occasion of his 70th birthday
the text was written in collaboration with the Author

**KMDR PPOR. SG RETIRED DR IRENEUSZ BIENIECKI
– OFFICER OF BORDER GUARD FORCES, BORDER
GUARD OFFICER OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND AND
RESEARCHER AT THE POMERANIAN ACADEMY IN SŁUPSK
(1955–2025)**

Dear Celebrant,

On the occasion of your 70th birthday, the entire Editorial Board of the journal “The Study of Security” extends to you its warmest wishes for health, prosperity and further professional and personal success. Your commitment to service to the Border Guard and your contribution to the development of science are invaluable achievements that will leave a lasting mark in the academic and practical community.

We would also like to thank you wholeheartedly for your many years of cooperation and your invaluable contribution to our journal. Your articles, which have appeared in almost every issue, enriched its content and contributed to the formation of a high level of content and building its reputation. Thanks to your knowledge, passion and commitment, you have become an integral part of our editorial community.

We wish that the next few years will bring you much joy, inspiring challenges and satisfaction in your further scientific work. May your health, strength and the kindness of your loved ones accompany you every day.

With best regards and gratitude,
Editors of the journal

Introduction

Ireneusz Bieniecki was born on 19 February 1955 in Włocławek, in what is now the Kuyavian-Pomeranian province. He began his education in elementary school in Toruń on what was then Hanka Sawicka Street. After graduating from elementary school in 1969, he continued his education at the then Mechanical and Electrical Technical School (TME), located at 26 Św. Józefa Street in Toruń.

Military school and service in the Border Protection Forces

Upon graduating from high school (TME), he initially took exams to the Higher Officer School of the Communication Forces (WOSW³) in Zegrze near Warsaw, where he spent two weeks taking entrance exams. However, he eventually enrolled in the one-year School for Border Protection Troops (SCH WOP) in Kętrzyn in September 1974, graduating on 15 May 1975.

On 4 October 1975, he began serving as a professional soldier in the then Kashubian Brigade of the Border Protection Troops (KB WOP) in Gdańsk Nowy Port (35 Oliwska Street). Initially, he was assigned to the WOP Port Battalion in Gdańsk, the structure of which included the battalion headquarters and three sub-divisions: the reverse watchtower, Vistula-East (No. 8) and New Port (No. 9). Ireneusz Bieniecki was assigned to the retreat watchtower, which was commanded by then Capt. Bolesław Wujciak. At the time, the commander of the Kashubian B WOP in Gdańsk was Col. Dipl. Marian Opalka. After him, until the end of its functioning (15 May 1991), the unit was commanded by Colonel MA Jerzy Więckowski, a former officer of the Baltic WOP Brigade in Koszalin.¹

I. Bieniecki's interest in humanities subjects in the mid-1970s aroused in him the desire to study humanities at the University of Gdańsk. As a result, despite a variety of difficulties arising from the fact that he remained in the corps of ensigns and performed many service activities related to the training of soldiers

¹ I. Bieniecki, *Noty biograficzne wybranej kadry kierowniczej formacji ochraniających polską granicę morską w latach 1945-1991, cz. 1*, "Biuletyn Centralnego Ośrodka Szkolenia Straży Granicznej" 2013, no. 3 (65), pp. 76–96; idem, *Noty biograficzne wybranej kadry kierowniczej formacji ochraniających polską granicę morską w latach 1945-1991, cz. 2*, "Biuletyn Centralnego Ośrodka Szkolenia Straży Granicznej" 2013, no. 4 (66), pp. 65–72; idem, *Noty biograficzne wybranej kadry kierowniczej formacji ochraniających polską granicę morską w latach 1945-1991, cz. 3*, "Biuletyn Centralnego Ośrodka Szkolenia Straży Granicznej" 2014, no. 1 (67), pp. 91–100.

and service in the protection of the maritime border, he undertook a master's degree-awarded studies at the University of Gdańsk (UG) in 1977, majoring in non-teaching Polish philology, specializing in the dissemination of culture. During his studies at the Faculty of Humanities, he had contact with a group of lecturers that included then and later UG professors, including: Józef Bachórz, Edward Breza, Stefan Chwin, Jan Data, Zofia Głabiowska, Anna Habryn, Anna Kubale, Edward Łuczyński, Anna Martuszevska, Tadeusz Oracki, Julian Platt, Bronisław Rocławski, Bronisława Stolarska, Jerzy Trederd, Ludwik Wierzbowski, Stefan Zabłocki and many others .

It was also at this time that his cooperation began with the WOP weekly *Granica*, for which he was a correspondent, *Soldier of Freedom and the Navy* (MW) weekly *Bandera*, and later with the editors of other magazines. In their pages he posted his first studies in the form of book reviews and information about the service of soldiers in the protection of the maritime border.

In the autumn of 1981, he graduated from the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Gdańsk with a master's degree in Polish philology. He wrote his master's thesis entitled "Moral ideals in the short epic forms of Bolesław Prus" under the supervision of then Associate Professor Anna Martuszevska (later Professor at UG). He received his master's degree in Polish philology on 28 October 1981.

In the subdivisions of the Kashubian WOP Brigade in Gdańsk-Nowy Port, from 1975 to 1984, he served in various line and staff positions. Despite his intensive professional work, he still intended to educate himself. To this end, between 1983 and 1985, he continued his studies on a two-year Postgraduate Programme in Political Science at the then Institute of Political Science at the UG Faculty of Humanities. At that time, the group of lecturers in political science included: Kazimierz Podoski (then director of the institute), Marcei Burdelski, Czesław Ciesielski, Andrzej Sobociński and Olgierd Sochacki. The thesis entitled "Military Policy Towards the Eastern Borderlands in the Years of the Second Polish Republic" was written under the direction of then Associate Professor Czesław Ciesielski (later Professor at UG). His take on the issue of the military in the eastern borderlands of the Second Republic was later developed by him in further research, which resulted in his doctoral dissertation and his first published monograph in the mid-1990s. He graduated from the Postgraduate School of Political Science on 11 June 1985.

From 21 August 1984 to 31 March 1986, he served in the WOP Command in Warsaw (DWOP-A1. Niepodległości 100), which allowed him to look at the formation from a broader perspective and become familiar with other organisational

units. Then, until the dissolution of the WOP formation in 1991, he served again in the Kashubian WOP Brigade in Gdańsk-Nowy Port.²

While serving in this formation, for his popularisation activities in the pages of the military press at the time, in 1988 he received the “Bronze Feather” award of the daily newspaper of the Polish Army “Soldier of Freedom” in the field of combat training and popularisation of educational initiatives and experiences. He was one of 22 nationwide authors awarded at the time, outside the full-time editorial staff of the newspaper. A ceremonial meeting of the laureates combined with the presentation of awards was held on 13 June 1988 at the Capital Garrison Club at 2 Żelazna Brama Square in Warsaw.³

In addition, in the elections to national councils on 19 June 1988, he was elected councillor of the Municipal National Council (MRN) in Gdańsk.⁴

Ireneusz Bieniecki served in the WOP formation from 25 September 1974 to 15 May 1991, including professional military service from 4 October 1975 to 15 May 1991.⁵

Officer of the Marine Division of Border Guard in Gdańsk

After the dissolution of the WOP, from 16 May 1991 to 30 April 2005, he served in the new formation protecting the borders of the Republic of Poland, as an officer of the Border Guard (SG) in the Maritime Branch of the Border Guard (MOSG) in Gdańsk Nowy Port at 35 Oliwska St. The commander of this unit was initially kmdr/contradmiral SG Stanisław Lisak and then kmdr/contradmiral SG Konrad Wiśniowski.

In the middle of 1992, the Competition Commission of the Polish Society for the History of Technology (PTHT) held a competition entitled “Achievements of

² Odpis przebiegu służby wojskowej z akt personalnych żołnierza (...) WKU Gdańsk-2 z 6.05.2004 r., p. 1 (in the collection of I. Bieniecki).

³ G. Goryński, *Laureat z Kaszubskiej Brygady WOP*, “Granica” 1988, no. 48 (2005), p. 5; Pismo Redaktora Naczelnego „Żołnierza Wolności” płk. mgr. Zdzisława Janośa do I. Bienieckiego z 6.06.1988 r., p. 1 (in the collection of I. Bieniecki).

⁴ Pismo z 11.07.1988 r. przewodniczącego MRN mgr Janusza Lewińskiego do Kaszubskiej BWOP w Gdańsku, (in the collection of I. Bieniecki).

⁵ Zaświadczenie nr 192/08 WKU w Gdańsku z 25.09.2008 r. (copy in the collection of I. Bieniecki). During his service in the WOP and SG, he was promoted to higher military ranks: ml. chor. – 23.08.1975, chor. – 2.10.1978, ppor. – 4.10.1982, por. – 17.09.1985, kpt. – 25.09.1989, mjr. – 25.10.1996.

Polish technical thought in the interwar period,” in which I. Bieniecki received an honourable mention (financial) for his submitted work (article) entitled “Projects and prototypes of river vessels of the Pinsk flotilla.”⁶ This was as a result of his interest in the Pinsk Flotilla of the MW of the Second Republic.

While serving as an officer in the Maritime Division of the Border Guard, he was a participant in a doctoral seminar conducted by the then Associate Professor Czesław Ciesielski at the University of Gdańsk. In the mid-1990s, after passing the prescribed examinations by a resolution of 16 March 1995 of the Scientific Council of the Institute of History at the Faculty of Philology and History of the University of Gdańsk, on the basis of his doctoral dissertation entitled “The River Flotilla of the Navy in Pinsk 1919-1939,” written under the supervision of Prof. UG Ph.D. Czesław Ciesielski, he received the degree of Doctor of Humanities in history-most recent history. The reviewers of the doctoral dissertation were Dr. Józef Wiesław Dyskant-doc. of the Military Historical Institute (WIH) in Warsaw and Prof. Roman Wapiński of the University of Gdańsk. The defence of his doctoral thesis took place on 16 March 1995. During this time, he held various managerial positions at the MOSG in Gdańsk. On 30 April 2005, he ended his permanent service in the MOSG in Gdańsk and went into the reserves. After leaving the service of the MOSG he did not undertake professional work for three years, devoting himself to matters of science and participation in scientific conferences. On 5 December 2008, he was awarded the commemorative Mark of Honour of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Poland for his long-standing cooperation with the naval magazine “Przegląd Morski.”

Scientific work at the Pomeranian Academy in Słupsk

On 1 October 2008, the then Rector of the Pomeranian Academy in Słupsk, Ph.D., prof. nadzw. Roman Drozd, appointed Ireneusz Bieniecki to the position of assistant professor in the Department of National Security. Its first head was prof. zw. dr hab. Andrzej Peplonski.

From 1 October 2008 to 30 June 2018 and from 1 October 2019 to 30 July 2020 (with an interruption) he was employed as a full-time assistant professor at the Pomeranian Academy in Słupsk in the Department of National Security

⁶ Pismo nr 1. dz. 04/42/92 Sekretarza Generalnego Polskiego Towarzystwa Historii Techniki (PTHT) mgr inż. J. Czerwińskiej do I. Bienieckiego z 2.06.1992 r. (in the collection of I. Bieniecki).

(NSC), and later at the Institute of National Security (IBN) of the Faculty of Management and Security Sciences. During the 2009/2010 academic year he was an assistant professor in the Department of Defence Policy, and the successive positions he held were based on the organisational structures in place at that time.

As previously mentioned, in the first years the head of the Department of National Security was Prof. Dr. A. Peplonski. At that time there were only 15 people in the organisational structure of the NSC.

In addition, during the 2018/2019 academic year, Dr. I. Bieniecki taught students in the security course at the Eugeniusz Kwiatkowski School of Administration and Business in Gdynia.

Since he had a wealth of academic achievements, just before he ended his work in Słupsk in 2019, he again won the competition for the position of assistant professor at the university. His work in Słupsk ended definitively on 30 July 2020.

Scientific achievements of Ireneusz Bieniecki – achievements in scientific work before obtaining the doctoral degree

The main area of scientific interest of Dr. I. Bieniecki was the issue of the security of the Polish borders. However, in the 1970s and 1980s his scientific interests were already focused on the problems of military history in the broadest sense. During this period he published a number of popular science articles in “Granica,” “Soldier of Freedom” and “Bandera,” as well as scientific articles in such journals as “Przegląd Morski,” “Historical Bulletin” of the Naval Museum in Gdynia, “Nautology,” “War Ships,” “Military Historical Review” and other short publications. The summary of this area of research interest was a doctoral dissertation entitled “The River Flotilla of the Navy in Pinsk 1919-1939.” The dissertation was a thorough and pioneering study of the formation, organisation and activities of the subdivisions of the Naval River Flotilla in Polesie. It was defended at the University of Gdańsk in March 1995, and its revised version was published in print in 2005 by the esteemed Adam Marszałek Publishing House in Toruń. The publishing reviewers of this study were scientists with MW roots, employees of the then Pomeranian Pedagogical Academy in Słupsk, namely Prof. Jerzy Przybylski, PhD, and Prof. Bogdan Zalewski, PhD.

Achievements in scientific work after receiving his doctoral degree in history (in 1995)

I. Bieniecki continued his previous scientific interests, which with time became more detailed and evaluated leading to scientific-research results in the following nine areas: Navy of the Second Republic, border crime, border formations of the Second Republic, border protection formations after 1945, biography, book reviews and discussions, reports on scientific conferences, system and subsystems of border protection of the People's Republic of Poland and WOP education.

The first three areas of research should be considered primary after the doctoral degree. The fourth area of interest was demonstrated in one of his publications (book). Biographical studies, book reviews, conference reports and the system and subsystems of border protection of the People's Republic of Poland were undertaken by Dr. I. Bieniecki throughout the period. However the last area of interest, schooling of the WOP, was a new research topic, which resulted in more publications and which he successfully continues in his retirement.

In the first of the above-mentioned research areas, in addition to the texts written before the doctoral degree, the book "The River Flotilla of the Polish Navy in Pinsk in the Years 1925-1935 in Light of the Reports of the Army Inspectors and Officers of the Controller Corps" was published in 2005. It contains a detailed analysis of the process of formation and organisation of the flotilla during the years 1919-1939. An extension of the first research area includes a number of specialised articles in short publications and journals published during the period 1986-2015. These were scientific articles, biographies and book reviews on the subject.

The second research area, Border Crime, is reflected in articles in journals and short publications and reviews. The culmination of this area of interest was the publication in 2012 of a book entitled "Border crime on the Polish coast in the second half of the twentieth century. Selected problems." It was published by the Scientific Publishing House of the Pomeranian Academy in Słupsk. This was not a closed area because within its framework the author participated in a scientific conference on this topic organised in 2015 by the IPN Branch in Szczecin, and then published (together with Izabela Szkurlat) two volumes of sources devoted to the discussion of characteristic cases of illegal border crossings of the People's Republic of Poland in the second half of the twentieth century, and published numerous articles in this area.

The third research area, Formations of border protection of the Second Polish Republic, includes articles published in journals and short publications, a detailed list of which is included in the list of scholarly achievements.

The fourth research area, Formations of border protection after 1945, refers to the activities of the WOP (including mainly the coastal brigades of this formation), the Maritime Brigade of Border Ships and the Border Guard after 1991. This is represented by the largest number of publications dealing with a variety of issues related to the broadly understood border problems, which appeared in the form of articles in journals and short publications. The culmination of the work devoted to this research area was a book entitled "Border Protection Troops and their place in the system of protection and defence of the Polish maritime border in the years 1965-1991," published by the Scientific Publishing House of the AP in Słupsk in 2015.

The fifth research area is biography. In this area I. Bieniecki published a number of articles presenting, among others, the lives and activities of: kmdr. Lt. Roman Somnicki, officer of the MW of the Second Republic and creator of the maritime service of the WOP; kmdr. Witold Zajączkowski, commander of the Pinsk Flotilla; subsequent commanders of this unit of the MW of the Second Republic; commanders of the Maritime Border Ship Brigade, kmdr. Henryk Romanek and kmdr. Ludwik Siwek; selected officer personnel serving in the protection of the Polish maritime border in the second half of the twentieth century (several dozen biographies); the first four commanders of the Border Guard Unit in Gdańsk Nowy Port; personnel of the contemporary Border Guard (such as kmdr. Lt. SG Krzysztof Wójcik or the director of the Border Guard Archive in Szczecin-dr. hab. Ryszard Techman); and the first rector of the Gdańsk University of Technology, prof. Aleksander Potyrały.

Discussions and reviews of books are the next research area that can be distinguished in the scientific activity of I. Bieniecki. This is reflected in dozens of discussions and reviews of various publications dealing with border and naval war issues and were published in the pages of: "Military Historical Review," "Maritime Review," "Nautology," "Bulletin" of the Central Border Guard Training Centre in Koszalin, Bulletin "Problemy Ochrony Granic" of the Border Guard Training Centre in Kętrzyn, and "Komunikaty Instytutu Bałtyckiego" in Gdańsk.

Another area of research, reports of scientific conferences, is also worth highlighting. I. Bieniecki, being a participant in dozens of scientific and popular science conferences until 2015, posted numerous reports from them which

appeared in professional periodicals, for both civilian and uniformed formations.

Dr. Ireneusz Bieniecki's eighth area of research concerns the system and subsystems of protection (applicable to specific sections) of the border of the People's Republic of Poland, including mainly the protection of the state border in the second half of the 20th century. This is reflected in a number of published articles included in specialised publications.

The last (ninth) and at the same time new, in addition to the eight already listed as basic areas of research interest of Dr. I. Bieniecki, was schooling and education of WOP. This new subject matter was gradually developed and resulted in further studies in this area in the form of articles. To date, studies have been published in this area concerning: the training of non-commissioned officers of this formation, the School of Marine Specialists of WOP in Gdańsk, the training of guides and service dogs for WOP, the Non-Commissioned Officer School of WOP in Kętrzyn, and a subsection in the book on this formation dedicated to the Training Centres for Non-Commissioned Officers and Junior Specialists of WOP. Selected issues on this subject were also presented later in the form of subsequent articles.

Since 2016, he has successfully collaborated with the journal "The study of Security," which has published six of his articles, the last two in co-authorship with Dr. Izabela Szkurlat.

Characteristics of teaching achievements

The main teaching activity of I. Bieniecki focused from 2008 on teaching the course of National Security (BN) implemented at the then AP in Słupsk. During this time, he implemented classes in numerous subjects in the form of: lectures, exercises, lectures and seminars, as well as consultations at the home unit. During his work from 2008 to 2015 at the Department of National Security and then the Institute of National Security at the Pomeranian Academy in Słupsk, he was responsible for the implementation of dozens of subjects.

During the course of teaching he used his extensive academic and research achievements as well as professional experience. In terms of content and form, he tried to prepare and conduct his classes in such a way that they showed students that the knowledge they would gain should prove useful in their future professional activities. During his tenure as an assistant professor at AP in

Słupsk he received high evaluations. For example, during the evaluation conducted by BN students at the end of the 2013/2014 academic year, he received an overall grade of 4.59 for the second semester.

Since 2011, he has repeatedly been a member of committees conducting examinations for undergraduate and graduate studies with BN.

Research achievements

While serving as an assistant professor he undertook a number of activities to disseminate research on border formations and border protection by publishing books, publishing articles and presenting papers at national and international conferences. By 2020, he was an active participant in dozens of conferences, where he presented, in the form of papers, the results of his research.

He has been a member of the Polish Nautological Society for many years. He was also a member of the Scientific and Research Association Baltic Institute in Gdańsk, where he served as chairman of the Audit Committee for many years.

Summary

In conclusion, it should be said that Dr. Ireneusz Bieniecki, during the period of his professional activity from the mid-1970s to the present, a period of nearly 50 years, has become known as a conscientious and valued researcher, both of the history of border formations in Poland and of the Polish MW.

At the end of this article it is also appropriate to cite a very positive assessment of the achievements of Dr. I. Bieniecki concerning his activities up to the beginning of the 21st century. It was presented in one of Jan Tyminski's articles in the second decade of this century.

"(...) The second author mentioned, Ireneusz Bieniecki, has been working on the history of the Pinsk Navy River Flotilla since the mid-1980s. The effects of his research were evident in the form of the publication of numerous articles or papers delivered at various conferences of which a great example was the scientific symposium on 'Defending the Polish Sea. 75 years of the Polish Navy' (...)”⁷

⁷ J. Tymięski, *Przegląd dorobku polskiej historiografii na temat Flotylli Rzecznej Marynarki Wojennej w Pińsku z lat 1919–1939*, "Biuletyn Historyczny Muzeum Marynarki Wojennej w Gdyni" 2016, no. 31, pp. 29–31.

It should also be mentioned that Dr. Bieniecki's academic achievements include authorship (and co-authorship) of five monographs and several hundred articles, which were published in, among others: "Granica"; "Soldier of Freedom"; "Bandera"; "Problems of Border Protection", published by CS SG in Kętrzyn; "Bulletin" of COS SG in Koszalin; "Historical Bulletin" of the MW Museum in Gdynia; "Maritime Review"; "Okręt Wojenny"; "Wojskowy Przegląd Historyczny"; "Studiach Nad Bezpieczeństwem", published in Słupsk; "Zeszytach Naukowych" of the Air Force Training Centre in Koszalin; "Aparacie Represji w Polsce Ludowej 1944-1989"; "Nautology"; the quarterly of the sociological and historical department of the University of Rzeszow in Rzeszow "UR JOURNAL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES"; "Infantryman of the Sea"; the journal of the AMW in Gdynia "Colloquium"; "Rocznik Helski"; "Studie-Konteksty Pogranicza", published in Gorzow; "ACTA UNIVERSITATIS LODZIENSIS FOLIA HISTORICA"; "Nowosci", a Torun journal; "Wars and Armed Conflicts after 1945. A Collection of Studies", published by the Museum of Land Forces in Bydgoszcz; "Przegląd Wojsk Lotniczych i Obrony Powietrznej" and "Słupskie Studia Historyczne"/"Scripta Historica."

In addition, he has promoted dozens of bachelor's and master's degrees, and with regard to 17 undergraduate theses, he was their reviewer.

Therefore, taking into account his professional experience and the scientific achievements presented above, Dr. Bieniecki can be considered an outstanding expert and specialist in the field of protection and defence of the Polish borders of the 20th and 21st centuries.