

## ARTICLES

Klio. Czasopismo poświęcone dziejom Polski i powszechnym  
PL ISSN 1643-8191, t. 55 (S)/2020, s. 307–317



<http://dx.doi.org/10.12775/KLIO.2020.045>

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### The last will and testament of Józef Haller\*\*

**Summary:** Józef Haller's family had great military and philanthropic traditions. This kind of attitude was characteristic of the General himself, too. The below presented source edition is the General's last will, prepared as an official notarial act, signed on 11 March, 1926 in Zakopane. It is a private testament, considering the instructions concerning the General's estate and provision for his closest family members – his wife, Anna, and son Eryk.

**Keywords:** General Józef Haller, last will and testament, source edition

Józef Władysław Haller de Hallenburg (“Mazowiecki”) was born on 13 August 1873 in Jurczyce estates, near Krakow. He was a son of Henryk – of landed gentry, and Olga née Treter.<sup>1</sup> His father was a participant

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\* The paper was originally published as *Testament generata Józefa Hallera*, “Klio” 2016, vol. 36 (1), pp. 127–138, DOI: 10.12775/KLIO.2016.007.

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\*\* T/A For the sake of clarity and to facilitate further investigations of the facts given in the source commentary below the names of the institutions, often found in the Polish sources only, are also provided in their original Polish notation.

of the January Uprising, general manager of Noble Credit Association (Pl. *Towarzystwo Kredytowe Ziemskie*) in Lviv. He had six siblings: August, Edmund, Cezary, Karol, Anna, and Ewa. August (1871–1955) graduated from the Faculty of Law of the Jagiellonian University and worked as a diplomat until 1920. Edmund (1872–1916), having graduated from the Military Academy, served in the Austrian army. Cezary (1875–1919) studied at the Technical Military Academy in Vienna. He was a deputy to the Austrian Imperial Council, and, subsequently, became a captain in the Polish Army. He died in the battle against the Czechs in Cieszyn Silesia; he was posthumously promoted to major. Haller's youngest brother Karol (1878–1967) was an alumnus of the Agricultural Academy in Freising in Bavaria. In November 1918, he commanded the Polish Officers' Legion, and joined the reserve corps with the rank of major. Haller's sisters – Anna (1876–1969) and Ewa (1881–1930) were teachers. It is also worth mentioning that his cousin – Stanisław – was associated with the army. He rose to the rank of divisional general and occupied the position of Chief of the General Staff of the Polish Armed Forces. In 1939, he was taken prisoner by the Soviets and was placed in the prisoner-of-war camp in Starobielsk. He was murdered by NKWD (Eng. *The People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs*) in Kharkiv.<sup>2</sup>

Józef Haller graduated from a German gimnazjum (Eng. lower secondary school) in Lviv, lower *Realschule* (T/N. a type of secondary school) in Koszyce in 1889, Wyzsza Szkoła Wojskowa (Eng. *Military College*) in Hranice in 1892, and Technical Military Academy in Vienna in 1895. He was also an alumnus of some academic military courses connected with

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<sup>1</sup> About J. Haller cf. S. Aksamitek, *Generał Józef Haller. Zarys biografii politycznej*, Katowice 1989, p. 275; M. Orłowski, *Generał Józef Haller 1873–1960*, Kraków 2007, p. 566; E. Ligocki, *O Józefie Hallerze, Życie i czyny na tle współczesności dziejowej*, Warszawa 1923, p. 360; I. Modelski, *Józef Haller w walce o Polskę niepodległą i zjednoczoną*, Toruń 1936, p. 135; *Wybór korespondencji Józefa Hallera*, Warszawa 2010, p. 124; J. Haller, *Pamiętniki z wyborem dokumentów i zdjęć*, (1st edition) London 1964, p. 435; (2nd edition) Łomianki, p. 524.

<sup>2</sup> *Postowie i senatorowie Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej 1919–1939. Słownik biograficzny*, vol. 2, ed. M. Smogorzewska, Warszawa 2000, pp. 190–191; M. Orłowski, *Generał Józef Haller*, pp. 20–25.

artillery, military technology and war gases; he also studied social economy, and completed courses in agriculture and breeding at Lviv University. He had also completed an apprenticeship in village cooperative farms in Switzerland (1912) and Denmark (1914).<sup>3</sup>

In 1906, he married Alexandra, née Sala, (1879–1952). They had a son – Eryk Maria (1906–1984) – a second lieutenant (Pl. podporucznik) in the Polish Army, who commanded a platoon in the 11<sup>th</sup> Division of Horse Artillery during the 1939 defensive war.

Since 1895, Józef Haller had been an officer in the Austrian army – first in the 11<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment of the XI Corps in Lviv (years 1895–1901), then in 31<sup>st</sup> and 33<sup>rd</sup> Artillery Regiment in Stanisławów (years 1901–1905). He was an instructor in a one-year school training of volunteers in the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Corps (1901–1905), a commandant in the school in the 11<sup>th</sup> Corps (1905–1909), he commanded the 43<sup>rd</sup> Howitzer Division of Imperial-Royal Landwehr (1909–1 Dec. 1911). On 1 December 1911, he left active duty and retired.<sup>4</sup>

Then, he started to engage in philanthropy. Since 1912, he had been an inspector in the Machinery Rings Association (Pl. *Towarzystwo Kółek Rolniczych*) in Lviv, a member of “Sokół” Polish Gymnastics Society and occupied the position of an inspector of a military branch of “Sokół” (Pl. *Polowe Drużyny Sokole*)<sup>5</sup> and co-organised scouting in the area of Poland.<sup>6</sup> Years later, he reminisced:

[...] around mid- 1912 was a time of intensive work for me, being a military instructor and inspector of permanent “Sokół” troops, which required teaching and training. The courses were conducted in the evenings, more or less from eight to ten, and on Saturdays and Sundays I had to oversee field trainings. Besides, the first scout troops associating the youngest generations of “Sokół” youth were being formed, so along with the first scoutmaster Andrzej Małkowski, who

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<sup>3</sup> *Postowie i senatorowie*, p. 191; M. Orłowski, *Generał Józef Haller*, p. 41.

<sup>4</sup> A. Wojtaszek, *Generalicja Wojska Polskiego 1918–1926*, Warszawa 2012, pp. 447–448.

<sup>5</sup> J. Haller himself writes about the military branch of “Sokół”, cf. J. Haller, *Pamiętniki z wyborem dokumentów i zdjęć*, Łomianki 2014, pp. 61, 72–73.

<sup>6</sup> *Postowie i senatorowie*, p. 191; M. Orłowski, *Generał Józef Haller*, p. 41.

had translated “Scouting for Boys”<sup>7</sup> by gen. Baden-Powell, we proposed its Polish equivalent: *harcerstwo*, *harcerz*, *harcerka*, *harc mistrz*, and the official salutation “Czuwaj” with a hand outstretched as if for an oath. We decided on the uniform design and badges: a scouting cross, etc.<sup>8</sup>

In August, following the outbreak of the First World War, Haller, dismissed from the Austrian army, embarked on co-organizing the Eastern Legion (Pl. *Legion Wschodni*) in Lviv, succeeding to rally up a few thousand volunteers. However, in September, when, due to Russian offensive, the troops were withdrawn to Mszana Dolna near Limanowa, a significant part of the volunteers left the army refusing to pledge allegiance to the Austrian emperor. Eventually, some were directly drafted to the Austrian Army, others left, while Haller with about 800 people became the foundation for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Legions Infantry Regiment (Pl. *3. Pułk Piechoty Legionów*), of which he took over the command in October 1914.<sup>9</sup>

In May 1915, Haller injured his leg and sprained an arm in an accident. A long hospitalization in Częstochowa, Kraków, Pardubice, and Vienna commenced. No sooner than in June 1916 did he come back to active duty, and a month later he commanded the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade of the Polish Legions (Pl. *II Brygada Legionów Polskich*).<sup>10</sup>

Having crossed the frontline near Rarańcza (15/16 Feb. 1918), he had commanded the 5<sup>th</sup> Polish Rifle Division (Pl. *5. Dywizja Strzelców Polskich*) and the entire Polish Corps in the East (from March 28) until its surrender to Germans after the battle in Kaniów (11 May 1918). In July, he got to France through Murmansk, where he joined the Polish National Committee (Pl. *Komitet Narodowy Polski*), and in October he was nominated to command the Polish Army in France, which he led back to the country in April 1919.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> He refers to the work by R. Baden-Powell, titled *Scouting for Boys*, London 1908.

<sup>8</sup> J. Haller, *Pamiętniki z wyborem*, p. 61.

<sup>9</sup> *Posłowie i senatorowie*, p. 191; P. Stawecki, *Słownik biograficzny generałów Wojska Polskiego 1918–1939*, Warszawa 1994, p. 132.

<sup>10</sup> M. Orłowski, *Generał Józef Haller*, pp. 94, 99.

<sup>11</sup> *Posłowie i senatorowie*, p. 191; A. Wojtaszek, *Generalicja Wojska Polskiego*, p. 448.

In the course of his duty in the Polish Army, he commanded the Eastern (Galicia) Front (April–May 1919) and the Southwestern Front (May–September 1919), as well as the Pomeranian Front (September 1919–July 1920). On 10 February, he officiated the event known as Poland's Wedding to the Sea.

In July 1920, he joined the Council of National Defence (Pl. *Rada Obrony Państwa*) and presided over the People's Civil Committee of National Defence (Pl. *Obywatelski Komitet Obrony Państwa*). He organized and served as an Inspector General to the Volunteer Army, and, subsequently, he commanded the Northeastern and Northern Front. From October 1920, he presided over the Highest Military Assessment Committee acting by the Commander General of the Polish Armed Forces (Pl. *Naczelny Wódz Polskich Sił Zbrojnych*) and was a part of the Close War Council (Pl. *Ścisła Rada Wojenna*).<sup>12</sup> In years 1921–1926, he occupied the position of the Inspector General of the Artillery (with a break between November 1922 and October 1923, when he left active duty to serve as an MP). After the May Coup of 1926, when he supported the government, he left active duty permanently (31 July 1926) and moved from Warsaw to Poznań. In 1932, he settled in Gorzuchów, in the Chełmno district in Pomerania.<sup>13</sup>

It is also worth to mention his function as vice-president of the Temporary *Virtuti Militari* Awarding Committee (Pl. *Tymczasowa Kapituła Orderu Virtuti Militari*). In 1922, he was elected an MP, but he resigned on 23 October 1923. He presided over The Polish Scouting Association (Pl. *Związek Harcerstwa Polskiego*) in years 1920–1923 and was a president of the Main Committee of the Polish Red Cross (Pl. *Komitet Główny Polskiego Czerwonego Krzyża*). In 1934, he became an honorary president of the Catholic Action (Pl. *Akcja Katolicka*) of the Chełmno deanery. He was one of the opponents of the April Constitution of 1935 and took part in the boycott of the elections in 1935. He was one of the organisers of the Front Morges and, since 1937, he had occupied the position of the president

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<sup>12</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>13</sup> J. Haller, *Pamiętniki z wyborem*, pp. 313.

of the Labour Party's General Council (Pl. *Rada Naczelna Stronnictwa Pracy*).<sup>14</sup>

After the outbreak of WWII, he, without effect, attempted to be drafted to the Polish Army, crossed the border and, having been briefly interned in Suceava in Romania, finally arrived in France, where he was recalled to active duty (October 4). After the French surrender, he got to London through Lisbon. From 3 October 1939 to 14 July 1943, he was a minister without portfolio in the Polish government-in-exile; he presided over the Registration Committee (Pl. *Komisja Rejestracyjna*) and the Military Tribunal; he was also the head of the Office of Education and School Affairs (Pl. *Urząd Oświaty i Spraw Szkolnych*) in 1940–1943.<sup>15</sup>

After the war he remained in exile in Great Britain. He presided over the Foreign Committee and, subsequently, the General Council of the Labour Party. In 1952, he became a member of the Praesidium of the Political Council (Pl. *Prezydium Rady Politycznej*). In years 1954–1957, he was a member of the temporary Council of National Unity (Pl. *Rada Jedności Narodowej*). In 1957, he withdrew from political life, though he still served as president of the Council of the Relief Society for Poles (Pl. *Towarzystwo Pomocy Polakom*).

General Józef Haller died on 4 June 1960 and was buried next to his wife in Gunnersbury Cemetery in London. In 1993, his ashes were moved to Krakow. He was decorated with the Order of the White Eagle in 1921, the War Order of Virtuti Militari, the Silver Cross in 1920, four times with the Cross of Valour, as well as the highest Estonian, French and Italian decorations. One of the Polish Navy ships were also given his name.<sup>16</sup>

His military career: Second-lieutenant (Pl. *podporucznik*) in the Artillery – 1895, Lieutenant (Pl. *porucznik*) in the Artillery – 1899, Captain (Pl. *kapitan*) in the artillery – 1914, Major (Pl. *major*) in the infantry – 1914, Lieutenant Colonel (Pl. *podpułkownik*) in the infantry – 1914, Colonel (Pl. *pułkownik*) in the infantry – 1915, General Second Lieutenant

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<sup>14</sup> *Postowie i senatorowie*, pp. 191–192.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 192.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibidem*.

(Pl. *generał podporucznik*) and General Lieutenant (Pl. *generał porucznik*) – 1918, Lieutenant General (Pl. *generał broni*) – 1919.<sup>17</sup>

The text below constitutes his last will and testament and was written in the form of a notary act signed on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March 1926 in Zakopane, in the office of a notary – Stefan Góra, PhD, when Haller was in the sanatorium.

The last will and testament is in the form of a typescript and is stored in Centrum Pamięci Gen. Józefa Hallera i Błękitnej Armii (Eng. *General Józef Haller and the Blue Army's Memorial Center*) in Władysławowo, which is a local chapter of Florian Ceynowa Museum of Puck Land in Puck. I, hereby, would like to thank Mr. Józef Roszmanow for disclosing the document.

The text of the document is cited *in extenso*, to properly show its character and sometimes supplemented with the translator's notes (T/N) to clarify some more problematic issues.

L.R. 3855

The last will and testament of General Józef Haller

I, undersigned as Józef Haller – Józef Haller de Hallenburg, in contemplation of my death, hereby dispose of my property:

- I. I am married to Alexandra, née Sala, and have an only son, Eryk Maria Haller with her.
- II. In case of my death, I name my son, Eryk Maria Haller, my heir, and convey all my personal estates, left after my death, to him.
- III. I take permanent residence in Warsaw, in a house at 27 Nowowiejska Street, in a flat number 21. Notwithstanding, I soon intend to move to my villa in Żoliborz, which was built for me by “the Officers’ Housing Cooperative in Żoliborz in Warsaw” (T/N: Pl. *Spółdzielnia*

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<sup>17</sup> A. Wojtaszek, *Generalicja Wojska Polskiego*, p. 447.

*mieszkaniowa oficerska na Żoliborzu w Warszawie*) in Kaniowska Street.

With a notarial deed drawn in Zakopane on 10 March 1926, entered under the number L.R. 3848, I stated, and I hereby recapitulate, that household appliances listed in there belong to my wife Alexandra Haller, née Sala. The said property is located in the above stated flat at 27 Nowowiejska Street and will be transported to the aforementioned villa in Kaniowska Street, in Żoliborz. The ownership of the villa in Żoliborz – the deed title or any other rights are conveyed, in case of my death, along with the entire inheritance to my son, Eryk Maria Haller to dispose of as he pleases.

To my wife, Alexandra Haller, née Sala, I bequeath the life usufruct of the entire villa in Kaniowska Street, in Żoliborz with all its facilities, particularly the plot of land it is situated in. To be precise, by life usufruct I mean, according to the Austrian Civil Code, that my wife will be entitled not only to use the villa with its surrounding land personally, but also to gain any interest from it, even by means of lease or rent. I allow this right of my wife to be secured by a mortgage.

IV. By means of a contract of donation drafted in Zakopane on 10 March 1926, entered under the entry number LR 3849, I donated my own shares in the estates (T/N: Pl. *dobra tabularne*) in Jurczyce,<sup>18</sup> in Skawina court district, listed in the District Court books under the entry number lwhip.886.ks.tab., to my son Eryk Maria Haller. In case of lack of validation of this document by the local land authorities (T/N: Pl. *władze ziemskie*) I administer to include also my share in the estates in Jurczyce in the inheritance of my son Eryk Maria Haller.

V. I am the owner of the so-called “resztówka” Gorzuchowo (T/N: *“resztówka” denotes the remaining stretch of land after the subdivision is conducted*),<sup>19</sup> Chełmno district in Pomerania, purchased from the

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<sup>18</sup> J. Haller’s place of birth.

<sup>19</sup> This remaining land (Pl. “resztówka”) (e.g. 150 ha of land with facilities) was bought in 1922 and Haller lived there for a dozen or so years (since 1932 permanently, until the outbreak of war). There, he funded a cross, a Virgin Mary’s grotto, and a chapel with a sculpture of St. Andrzej Boboła. After the outbreak of the Second World War, the estate was confiscated by the state. Cf. W. J. Wysocki *Światopogląd religijny Józefa Hallera*,

settlement office in Poznań, now The Agricultural Bank (Pl. *Bank Rolny*). The land is currently being leased to Mr. Stanisław Piechocki. Well, this land, with all facilities and rights and duties connected with the said lease I bequeath to my son Eryk Maria Haller to dispose of as he pleases.

VI. All my mementos, namely: The Great War and the Second Polish War memorabilia I also leave to my son Eryk Maria Haller, who will also inherit all the household appliances which belong to me and are listed in the deed drafted in Zakopane on 10 March 1926 (L.R. 3848).

VII. I was an owner of a stretch of land in Wielka Wieś located in the Puck district, later called “Hallerowo hamlet”. The land was divided into a number of plots. The plot numbered 1 and 14 still belongs to me, while the others I sold, although their ownership rights had not yet been transferred to the buyers.<sup>20</sup> On the plot number 1, a villa, which is my property, was built.<sup>21</sup> So, this plot, along with the villa and all its facilities I leave to my wife Alexandra Haller, née Sala as a bequest, while the plot number fourteen, like all the inheritance will go to my son Eryk Maria Haller.

VIII. I own a provisional certificate in my name for twenty-five shares of Bank Polski. The shares were bought together with Związek

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in: *W kręgu*, pp. 60, 62–63. M. Orłowski, in turn, writes that the land stretched over 120,23 ha. Cf. M. Orłowski, *General Józef Haller*, p. 427.

<sup>20</sup> The General purchased the plots stretching over 5 ha (based on the protocol drafted on 31 March 1922) located in Wielka Wieś in Puck district. The plots, together with the abutting lands in this settlement belonging to Aleksander Andrzejewski, Torliński couple, and others, following the decision of District Land Office in Poznań (Pl. *Okręgowy Urząd Ziemski*) were to become a summer resort, called Wielka Wieś Hallerowo. They were divided by the Cadaster Office (Pl. *Urząd Katastralny*) in Puck into 33 small plots. Cf. <http://www2.wladyslawowo.pl/wla/356/> [access: 28. 02.2015], M. Orłowski, *General Józef Haller*, p. 428.

<sup>21</sup> The house was built by Jan Pillar. General's poor investments in 1924 resulted in a sequester of his estates by Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego to cover his dues. The steps to auction his house and plot in Hallerowo were also taken. At first, the auction was to be held in 1928, but eventually it was organized in 1934. The villa, along with three plots of 3.5 ha were bought by “Hallerczyzy” from Greater Poland, and were donated to Eryk Haller. Cf. M. Orłowski, *General Józef Haller*, pp. 416, 428.

Hallerczyków (T/N: *Pl. Hallerczycy Association*) in Warsaw, located in Warsaw, at 6 Senatorska Street in the following proportion: I bought ten and the Association fifteen shares. The purchase was conducted in this way to acquire a vote in the annual general meeting.

So, I oblige my presumptive heir, Eryk Maria Haller, who is to inherit the said ten shares of Bank Polski, to release the remaining fifteen shares of Bank Polski to Związek Hallerczyków as their property, free of charge.

This concludes my last will and testament.

Zakopane, 11 March 1926.

Józef Haller, full name: Józef Haller de Hallenburg  
(handwritten signature)

Drafted in Poland, in Zakopane, in a notary's office,  
in a house located in 39 Krupówki Street,  
on the 11 of March 1926

L. R. 3855  
PROTOCOL

In Zakopane, I, Stefan Góra, PhD, a notary, welcomed a well-known to me and in full capacity to perform acts in law, Mr. Józef Haller, Lieutenant General and General Inspector of Artillery in the Polish Army, residing in Warsaw, in 27/21 Nowowiejska Street, currently staying in Zakopane, in the Red Cross Sanatorium. Before me, and in the presence of two invited respectable witnesses, who maintain full legal capacity, he declared his full clarity of mind and consciousness and that he wished to draft his last will and testament to be entered on the record to grant it full legal status. Then, he handed me a document in an envelope, declaring that it contained his

last will and testament. When I remarked that, according to §578 of the Civil Code, the will to be valid had to bear a handwritten signature, he declared that he himself had signed the last will deposited in the envelope.

Then, I stamped the envelope containing the will and entered it into the notarial register granting it a number and annotated it with: “The last will and testament of Józef Haller, Lieutenant General and General Inspector of Artillery in the Polish Army in Warsaw”, closed the envelope, and affixed my official seal to it. Subsequently, I attached it to this protocol with a string, also affixing it with my official seal.

This protocol was read aloud by the witness of the last will, Wanda Nowotnowa, to Józef Haller, who then declared it truthful and to verify it, before me and the two witnesses of the last will, signed.

I also ascertain that, I, the Notary undersigned, as well as the two witnesses were present throughout the whole time of the proceedings: the declaration by Józef Haller that he wished to draft his last will and testament and enter it to the notarial register, transfer of the envelope containing the said will, the declaration that he had signed the document himself, the sealing of the envelope and attaching it to the protocol, reading, verification and signing of the protocol in the presence of two witnesses, who also signed the protocol in my and Józef Haller’s presence verifying it.

The witnesses of the last will and testament were Ms. Wanda Nowotnowa, the wife of a doctor from Zakopane and Mr. Edward Woyzbun, Rittmeister of the 9<sup>th</sup> Uhlans Regiment in Czortków, now staying in Zakopane, in the Red Cross Sanatorium. I ascertain that, in the presence of Józef Haller, the two witnesses and my own, I affixed four official seals, and Józef Haller sealed it with his seal ring in the middle as well, and I affixed the edges of the strings with my official seal, which was also verified with Józef Haller’s seal ring.

Józef Haller

Wanda Nowotnowa

the witness of the last will and testament

Edward Woyzbun

the witness of the last will and testament

notary Stefan Góra

(handwritten signatures)  
A round seal with an eagle  
Stefan Góra, PhD  
Notary in Zakopane