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Knowledge Education Development



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SCHOOL PATRONS IN GRĘBOSZÓW AND DUGO SELO



MAJOR HENRYK SUCHARSKI
IVAN BENKOVIĆ



Henryk Sucharski

was born on **12 November 1898 in Gręboszów.**
to a peasant family.

He finished a local school and then a school in Otfinów. In 1917 he graduated from the 2nd Gymnasium in Tarnów and on February 13 he volunteered for service with the Austro-Hungarian Army. During his service in the March Battalion of the Bochnia-based 32nd Landwehr Regiment, he passed his matura exams with the following opinion:

"He is an excellent student. None of the subjects was difficult for him [...] He is polite, friendly, deeply religious and ethically high-standing".

Battle of Westerplatte, September 1939.



In 1938 he was promoted to major and appointed commander of the Military Transit Depot on Westerplatte. His garrison was supposed to offer resistance for 12 hours in case of a German invasion. The Germans indeed attacked Westerplatte on 1 September 1939. The next day, Sucharski ordered the burning of secret documents and considered surrender. But he decided to continue the defence. Only after the collapse of Guardhouse no. 2 on 7 September, Sucharski finally capitulated.



Sucharski and the officers were received with honors by General Friedrich Eberhardt, commanding the German forces. Since the act of surrender was to be captured on film, Henryk Sucharski was ordered to wear a uniform, and in recognition of his heroic attitude, General Eberhard granted him the right to wear a saber in captivity.



Westerplatte Monument
in memory of the Polish defenders

After his liberation from a POW (prisoners of war) camp, Sucharski joined the 2nd Polish Corps in Italy where he commanded the 6th Carpathian Rifle Battalion. Exhausted by his years of captivity and tormented by doubts, **Sucharski died on 30 August 1946 and was buried at the Polish military cemetery in Casamassima. On 1 September 1971 the urn with his ashes was reburied at the Cemetery of the Defenders of Westerplatte. Sucharski was posthumously awarded the Virtuti Militari Commander's Cross.** Numerous schools and streets in Poland have been named after him.



**On October 6, 1972,
Major Henryk Sucharski
- the Son of the Gręboszów's Land, became
the patron of the Primary School in
Gręboszów**

**On May 5th, 1974, a ceremony was held of
handing over the Banner to the School,
and the unveiling of a commemorative
statue embedded in the hall of the School,
in Gręboszów.**



In front of the school building there is a statue of Major Henryk Sucharski, which was solemnly unveiled on 4th September 1994 with the participation of the Westerplatte Veterans.



**On the 11th
November**

each year, Polish school
in Gręboszów celebrates
the Independence Day
and
**the School Patron's
Day**



Ivan Benković (1873 - 1951) - teacher with Dugo Selo, secretary, archivist and choirmaster



He was born on February 18, 1873 in Kašina. He attended four years of elementary school in his native Kasina, later enrolled in a gymnasium in Zagreb, and after completing six years of gymnasium, he enrolled in the Royal Teachers' School, which he graduated in 1895. Apart from Croatian, he also spoke German. He was noticed very early as a gifted organist and singer.



Before coming to Dugo Selo in 1907, he worked in Ogulin, Novo Mesto, Martinska Ves and for several years in Posavina. When he was transferred to Dugo Selo as a teacher in 1907, he was transferred again two years later, this time to Palanjaku. In 1911 he returned to Dugo Selo, where he remained until the end of his life.



He was valuable, appreciated and respected not only for his pedagogical but also musical skills. He was regularly involved in many activities. On March 13, 1907, Benković founded the men's "peasant choir", which later turned into a mixed choir that sang church, folk and art songs before the First World War. As a teacher, he showed a special interest in learning about and caring for fruits and flowers. In 1936 he retired.

He died **on January 28, 1951** and **was buried in the Mirogoj cemetery in Zagreb.**

**He is the Patron
of Ivan Benković
Primary School
in Dugo Selo.**



**Croatian school celebrates
the Patron's Day - Dan škole
on the 18 February**

