

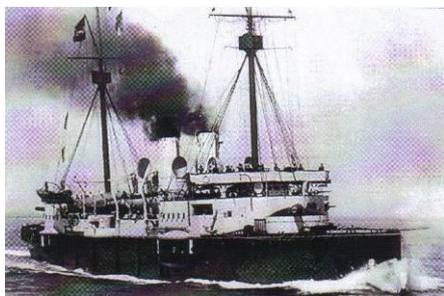
Anton Alexander Biszkupits (Biszkupiø)

Anton Biszkupits was born on 12 March 1886, as the third child in a family of 7 children (4 girls and three boys) at Pressburg, the present Bratislava (Slovakia) and was probably of Hungarian origin. He was a musician by profession and an instrument maker as well. On 3 March 1903, he joined the army at the infantry. He was encamped in Triëst (the present Italy) He got promotion in the army and became finally an NCO. (non-commissioned officer) In the First World War, he was a sailor on the Austrian-Hungarian warship, the cruiser “Empress Elisabeth”. The crew of that ship was captured by the Japanese in the harbour of Tsingdao (now Qingdao) on the 7th of November 1914.

With the reclassification of Europe, after the war, his birthplace fell in the new republic Czechoslovakia, and he applied for a citizenship of that country. The application is dated on 8 December 1919 and was done from Peking. He gave ‘instrument maker’ as his occupation. He did ,however, not return to that country but settled down in China.

Apparently, he was regularly asked by the bishops in China, to tune their organs. In 2009, Msgr. Uiu Jinghe, the successor of Msgr. Geurts, mentioned, that Mr. Biszkupits also came to Yungpingfu, to tune the organ of Msgr. Geurts. He had the rather impolite habit, to smoke cigarettes in the church during his work, and Msgr.Geurts could not appreciate that. When the bishop came to see how Mr. Biszkupits was carrying on with his work, the cigarette was quickly extinguished, but the bishop still smelled that he had been smoking.

The warship on which Mr.Biszkupits came to China in 1914, was a medium sized ship with a tonnage of 4000. At the end of the 19th century, Germany got in command of a part of the peninsula Shandong in China and made the harbour of Tsingdao. That harbour became the headquarters of the German army in the Far East. At the beginning of the First World War,



admiral Count von Spee was the Supreme Commander. He ordered the German Navy to sail out, to prevent them to fall into a trap. The Germans had a garrison of 4000 men, which would be enough to put off an English attack. But Japan joined the Allied Powers, hoping to obtain the German possessions in the Far East. 23.000 Japanese soldiers went ashore and encircled the town. The attack started on the 18th of September. The navy bombarded the harbour. The English helped with a force of 1500 soldiers

and 4 British warships. And so, Tsingdao came under fire from the land and from the sea. The final offensive took place on the night of 6 to 7 November 1914. In that battle, the Japanese lost 1800 men, Germany 700 men and England only 70. On the 7th November the Germans capitulated. Among them Anton Biszkupits as NCO.

On 9 October 1937, Mr. Biszkopits was situated in the dining room with Msgr. Schraven, when the soldiers entered the room and captured all the Europeans present. It is told of him, that he, as a military man, wanted to defend the Bishop. Whereupon he was captured himself. For further information about the development of that event, see: ‘The drama of Zhending.’
