

# REMARKS ON THE CHRONOLOGY OF THE GOŁDAP GROUP IN THE MIGRATION PERIOD WITH THE EXAMPLE OF THE CEMETERY IN CZERWONY DWÓR

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## Abstract

This article discusses the development of the Gołdap Group, which is part of Sudovian culture, during the Migration Period. The graves from necropolises of that region (especially from the cemetery at Czerwony Dwór) have quite rich grave goods, which allows for a detailed chronological analysis. It is complemented by an analysis of the stratigraphy of features dug into the barrows. On this basis, five chronological phases in the development of the Gołdap Group, which existed from the early Phase D of the Early Migration Period until Phase E2 of the Late Migration Period, can be distinguished.

Key words: Gołdap Group, Sudovian culture, barrows, Migration Period.

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## Introduction

The Gołdap Group is located in northeast Masuria, in the westernmost part of Sudovian culture. It has 37 barrow cemeteries with cremation burials. In its heyday, it extended from the River Gołdap catchment area (in the north) to the northeast edge of the Masurian Lake District (in the west), the northern part of the Ełk Lakeland (in the south), and the border with the Suwałki Group running along the western edge of the River Rospuda catchment area (in the east) (Fig. 1; Szymański 2006, 307). Its beginnings go back to the Early Roman Period, i.e., Phase B2 (cf. Engel, Iwanicki, Rzeszotarska-Nowakiewicz 2006, 203), and it reached its full development in the Younger Roman Period (Szymański 2013, 70-71).

The heyday of the Gołdap Group was during the Migration Period, and this period is called the Prudziska Phase (cf. Bitner-Wróblewska 1998, 309). It is characterised by large barrows, usually with earth mounds covered with paving (Figs. 2, 3), called family or clan barrows (cf. Kamiński 1956, 207-208; Kaczyński 1976, 263, 266, 270; Bitner-Wróblewska 2005, 36). They had a central grave located in the middle of the mound, and up to several dozen secondary dug-in pit or urn cremation burials (Szymański 2013, 51-52). The Migration Period is the richest in special finds: most of the artefacts found in the relatively rich burials come from that time (Szymański 2006, 371).

The Gołdap Group in the Prudziska Phase belongs to the large group of barrow cultures extending from eastern Masuria to 'the Neman in the east and the Dwina in the north' (Nowakowski 1995, 78). However, its

cultural features make it most similar to the Suwałki Group of Sudovian culture (the multi-burial stone barrows), and Dollkeim-Kovrovo culture and the Olsztyn Group (similar sets of special finds) (Szymański 2013, 73-75).

The Gołdap Group has recently been described in great detail. Its chronology, the area it occupied, and the main features of the burial rites, pottery materials and special finds have been determined (Szymański 2013, 69-76). The main periods in its development, i.e. two main phases, have been distinguished. Phase 1 is dated to the Younger Roman Period, and Phase 2 is connected with the Migration Period. Also, Phase 0 has been marked out for the Early Roman Period, when the typical features of the group formed (Szymański 2013, 70-71).

Relatively little is known about the exact chronology of the Gołdap Group, especially in its heyday during the Migration Period. At present, the interregional division of Phases D and E into sub-phases, based on material from other regions, is used for the discussed group. Whereas the sub-phases of Phase E elaborated for the neighbouring Balt Olsztyn Group (cf. Okulicz 1988; Kowalski 2000) to some extent match the materials from the Gołdap Group, it is different in the case of the Early Migration Period. So far, no system has been worked out reflecting the actual changes in the artefacts of that culture in that time. This is because in the period discussed, the large Germanic cultures, i.e., Przeworsk and Wielbark culture, the Dębczyno Group, disappeared from Polish lands. In Masuria, Bogaczewo culture went through a considerable crisis, reflected by a decline in the number of finds, and then it too dis-

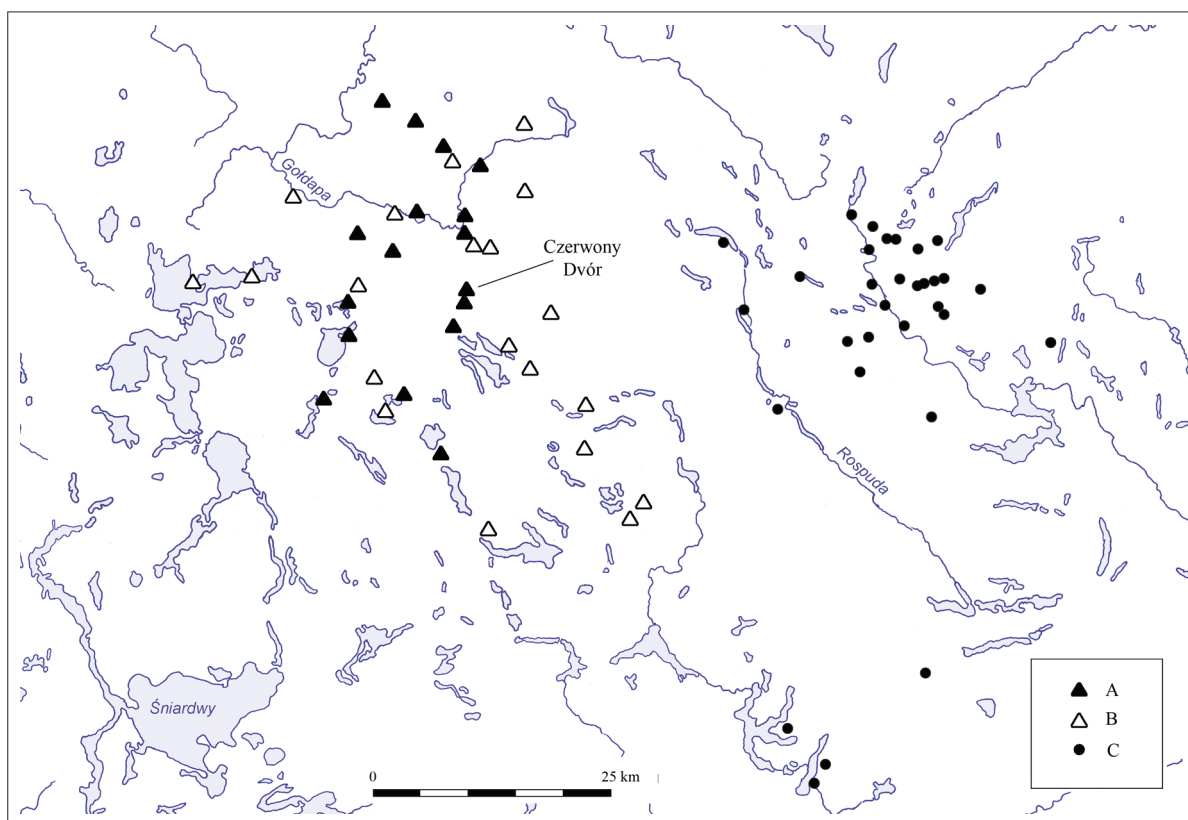


Fig. 1. The Gołdap Group: A cemeteries of the Gołdap Group; B supposed cemeteries of the Gołdap Group; C other cemeteries of Sudovian culture (compiled by P. Szymański).

appeared (cf. Bitner-Wróblewska 2000). It is therefore difficult to find material in Polish lands that may serve as a basis for a comparative analysis.

However, many ornaments have been found in Gołdap Group cemeteries, especially brooches and parts of belts, which allow us to conduct a detailed chronological analysis. The aim of this paper is to propose a chronology of the Gołdap Group in the Migration Period, i.e., in the time of the culmination of its development during the Prudziska Phase.

### Excavations at Gołdap Group cemeteries: sources for the chronology

Most known Gołdap Group cemeteries were excavated by German archaeologists before the First World War and in the interwar period, because at that time, the area used to belong to Prussia, and then to East Prussia. It was then that the best-known necropolises, such as those in Boćwinka (formerly Bodschingken), Grądy Krukłaneckie (Grunden), Grunajki (Gruneyken), Juchnajcie (Juchneitschen), Pietrasze (Pietraschen), Rothebude, and many others, were excavated. The material from these excavations was stored mainly in Königsberg: first in the Ostpreussische Provinzial-

museum, and then in the Prussia-Museum. Some of the artefacts, e.g., those from Grunajki and Juchnajcie, were stored in a museum in Berlin (today the Museum für Vor- und Frühgeschichte; cf. Nowakowski 1998, Fig. 109-110, 123-124, Fig. 3,4,25,26). Unfortunately, only a few of the results of the prewar excavations were published (and only in part). These include the publications by O. Tischler (1879), G. Bujack (1885; 1886) and K. Stadie (1919b; 1919c; 1919d), presenting the finds from Grunajki, Nowa and Stara Boćwinka (Neu and Alt Bodschingken), and the former Rothebude. However, even if these publications present quite complete catalogues of the finds, with general descriptions of the contexts in which the artefacts were found, the illustrations are not very numerous, consisting of just a few drawings of the finds and features. Unfortunately, most of the artefacts and documentation from these excavations were lost during the war, and no excavations were conducted in the area until the early 21st century.

For these reasons, during the whole postwar period, analyses of the cultures of northeast Masuria were based on very scarce, incomplete and selective literature published many years before. This can be seen in the analyses both of the Balt area (Okulicz 1981, 160; cf. Okulicz 1973, 448-450) and Sudovian culture itself (Kaczyński 1976, 261).

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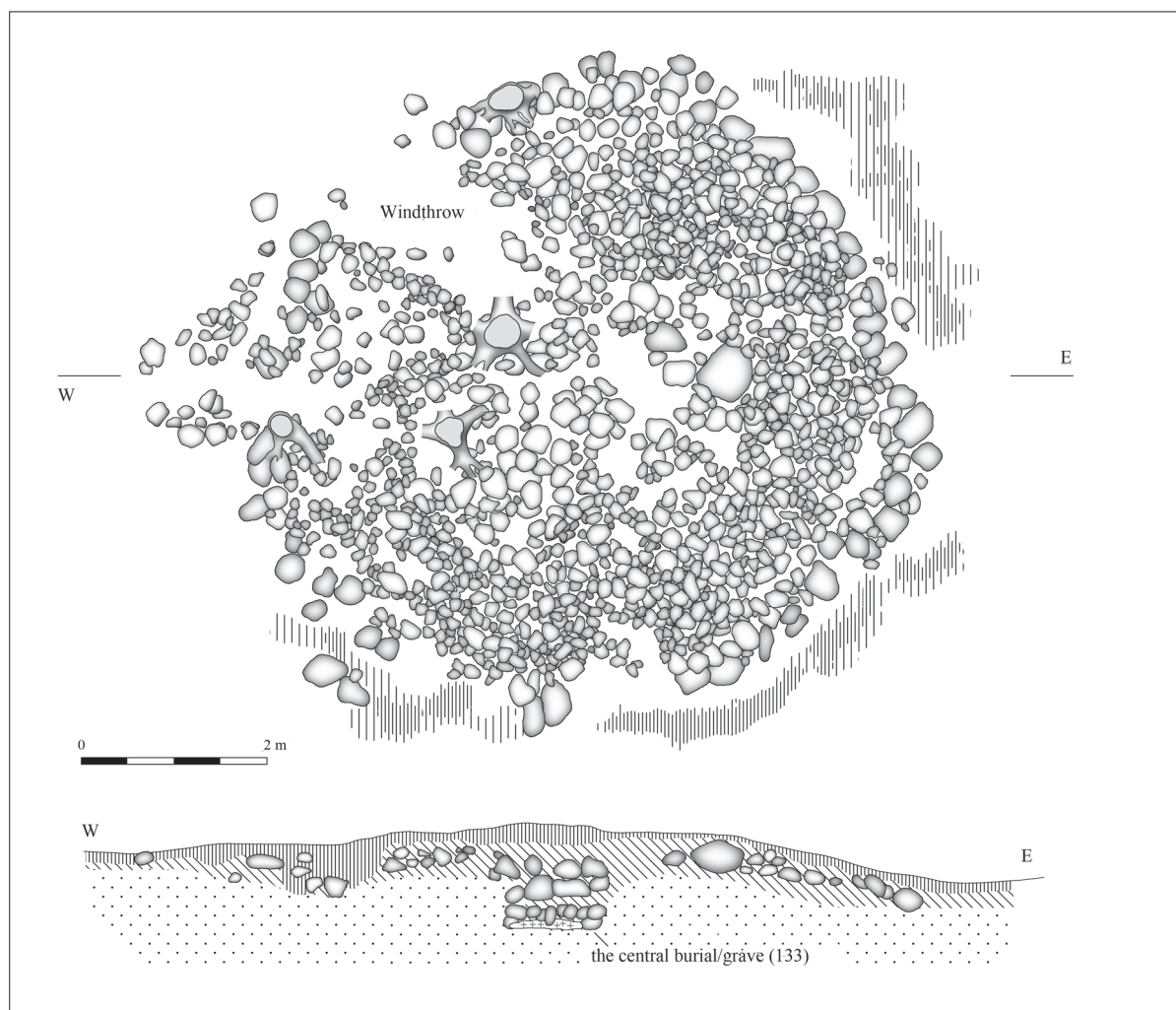


Fig. 2. A barrow from the Migration Period (Czerwonny Dwór, barrow 26) (drawn by P. Szymański).

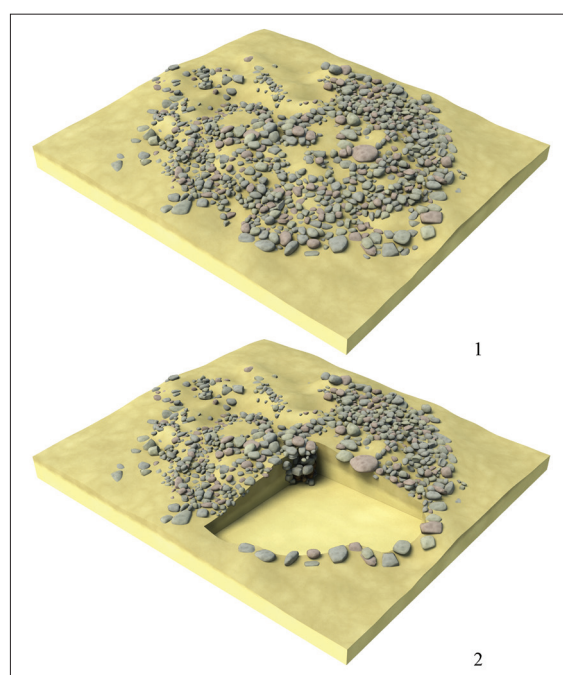


Fig. 3. A 3D picture of a barrow from the Migration Period (Czerwonny Dwór, barrow 26). The cross-section shows the construction of the barrow and the central burial (feature 133) (compiled by J. Kaniszewski).

A considerable increase in the information about northeast Masuria has occurred in the last 20 to 25 years, as a result of the political changes in Central and Eastern Europe which began in the late 1980s. At that time, many archive materials came to light: the official documentation from German museums (especially the Prussia-Museum in Königsberg), and the private records made by archaeologists during investigations in museums, especially by Feliks Jakobson, Kurt Voigtmann, Marta Schmiedehelm and Nils Åberg. Also, many artefacts at present stored in three museums, the Museum of Warmia and Masuria in Olsztyn, the Kaliningrad Regional Museum of History and Arts (Калининградский областной историко-художественный музей), and the Museum für Vor- und Frühgeschichte in Berlin, were recovered.

In addition, the current excavations have created a considerable increase in the material sources. At present, two Goldap Group cemeteries, in Lisy and Czerwony Dwór, are being excavated.

In the Bogaczewo culture cemetery in Lisy (Lyssen), several features from the Migration Period which may be interpreted as representing the Goldap Group have been discovered. These are probably the remains of central graves from two barrows with completely destroyed mounds (Iwanicki 2012, Fig. 2; 2015, 113, Fig. IV).

Much more information has been yielded by the excavations in the large necropolis at Czerwony Dwór. At that cemetery, located in the centre of Borecka Forest, 36 barrows in two concentrations, the southeast and the northwest one, have so far been registered (Szymański 2013, 9-69, 83-112).

During the 13 excavation seasons (until 2015), 23 barrows were excavated, 17 of which were in the southeast cluster, and six in the northwest cluster. All the explored mounds in the southeast cluster can be dated to the Younger Roman Period, and all those in the northwest can be dated to the Migration Period, which is the focus of interest of this paper. All the excavated mounds from the Migration Period contained a central grave, and sometimes dozens of secondary dug-in burials. Thus, they can be classified as family barrows, typical of the Prudziska Phase of Sudovian culture. Altogether, about 210 features, especially burials, have been discovered at the cemetery, of which 110 can be dated to the Migration Period.

These features contained a large number of artefacts, especially ornaments, including 32 brooches and twice as many belt buckles. Many of them belonged to rich assemblages.

A look at all the known sources, both prewar and contemporary ones, allows us to reconstruct a large series of 50 to 60 burial assemblages from Goldap Group cemeteries. There were also several dozen stray finds. This massive increase in information brought two results, negative and positive. Firstly, tentative analyses of the finds and the results of the research have revealed that, as has already been said, there is no good chronological system that might help place the finds in the right context. This is the case of the Roman Period, but especially the Migration Period discussed in this paper, to which the majority of the finds have been dated. For this reason, it was necessary to create new chronological distinctions.

However, there is also a positive outcome of the increase in the number of sources from the Goldap Group. The new finds from the Migration Period may become the basis for a new system, which will explain the changes to the artefacts in time, and allow us to date not only the material, but also other cultural features, such as burial rites. This will contribute to a full analysis of the Goldap Group in the future.

The material from the Goldap Group allows us to use two important and complementary methods of dating. Firstly, the area discussed yielded a large series of burial assemblages. The prewar and postwar excavations have provided information about roughly 60 features with special finds. It is certainly a disadvantage that the richest assemblages come only from the developed Phase D and the beginning of Phase E, but the other periods (early Phase D and developed Phase E) have also yielded a considerable number of finds. For this reason, the task of distinguishing the respective phases should begin with an analysis of the occurrence of finds in closed assemblages.

The second method for establishing a chronology is complementary to the first, and is connected with the character of the burial rites of the Goldap Group in the Migration Period. As has been said above, the deceased were buried mainly in family barrows. One mound contained, besides the central grave, as many as 30 burials. What is important is that a large number of the later burials are dug into the earlier ones, and thus remain in stratigraphic relations with them. Sometimes the relations were accidental, but in some cases the earlier burials were intentionally deposited in older ones. This helps us to determine the time sequence of the finds from these features. This phenomenon is particularly noticeable at Czerwony Dwór, and deserves closer attention.

So far, seven barrows from the Migration Period have been explored at Czerwony Dwór, and all of them

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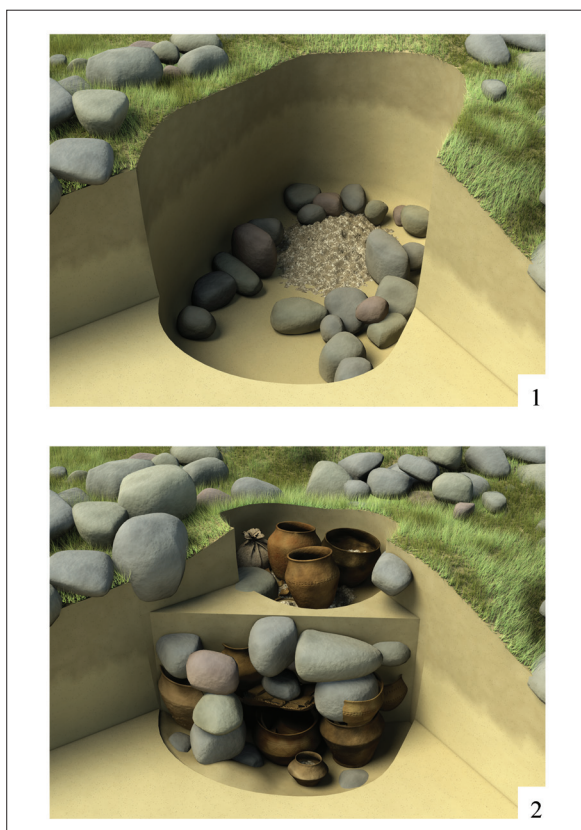
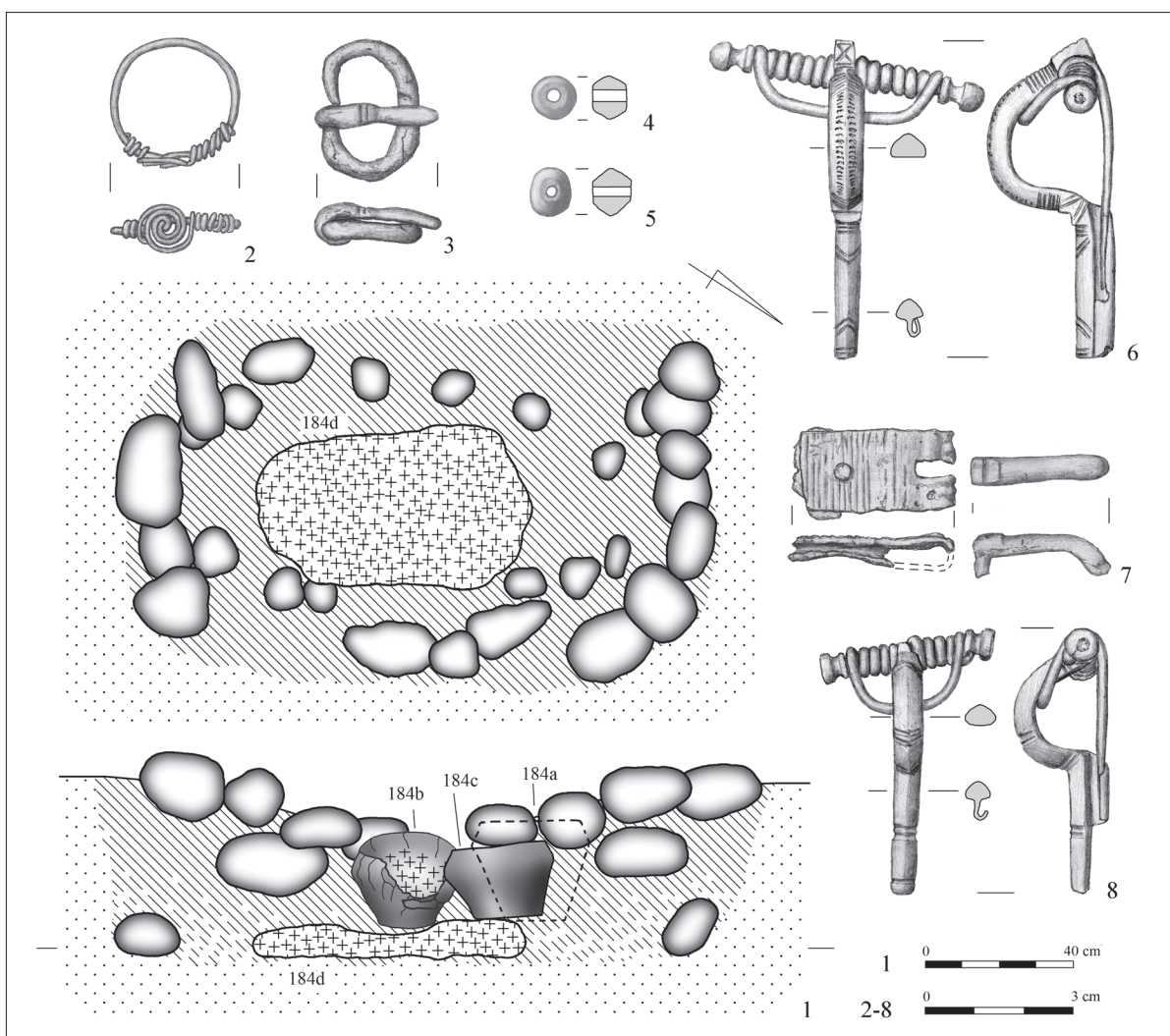


Fig. 4. A 3D picture of the central burial in barrow 26 at Czerwony Dwór (feature 133). 1 the burial at the bottom of the feature with its stone construction; 2 successive layers of burials separated by stone paving (compiled by J. Kaniszewski).

Fig. 5. The central burial under a barrow from the Migration Period (Czerwony Dwór, feature 184, barrow 5): 1 a plan and cross-section: at the bottom a layer of burnt bones (feature 184d) and above it three secondary dug-in urns; 2-8 grave goods from feature 184d from Phase 2.II of the Gołdap Group (drawn by P. Szymański).



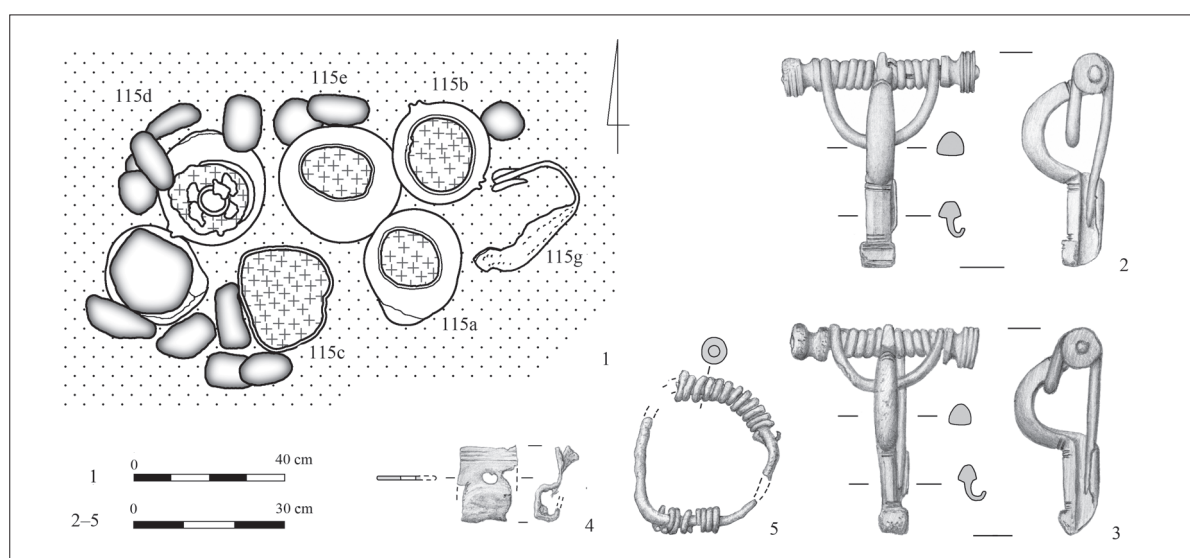


Fig. 6. The central burial under a barrow from the Migration Period (Czerwony Dwór, feature 115, barrow 25): 1 the bed of the feature: six urns and a vessel lying on its side; 2-8 grave goods from urn 115b from Phase 2.IV of the Goldap Group (drawn by P. Szymański).

contained secondary features that disturbed the earlier ones.

In barrow 18, at the bottom of the central grave (feature 33), there were eight additional burials, in the form of concentrations of clean burnt bones (Szymański 2013, 88-106). These concentrations adjoined and overlapped each other, making up a large layer about one metre long. It contained several dozen artefacts, including eight brooches, dated to between early Phase D and early Phase E. The careful exploration of this layer, during which an anthropologist analysed the bone material, has allowed us to distinguish all the burials, and match the artefacts to them. This allows us to establish the stratigraphic sequence of the whole assemblage. Additionally, the mantle of the barrow contained eight urns with artefacts from Phase E. Some of them were located over the central grave, which additionally confirms their later dating (Szymański 2013, 107-110).

In barrow 25, the central grave (feature 115) contained six urns (Fig. 6.1; Szymański 2013, Fig. 16). Unfortunately, it was difficult to determine their stratigraphic sequence, because they were located next to each other. However, the construction of the burial (feature 115d) located at the edge, which included a damaged stone cist, may indicate that it was the earliest burial, and the other vessels were added gradually afterwards. This provides a basis for determining the chronological sequence. There were five later vessels in the mound, partly over the central grave. A chronological analysis of the artefacts from the urns indicates that the barrow was built in the early Phase E, and used until the developed Migration Period.

In barrow 5, there was a layer of clean, burnt bones (feature 184) at the bottom; however, it was smaller than in barrow 18, and only two burials were distinguished in it (Fig. 5.1). Over that layer, there were three burials. All the deceased were buried between the middle of Phase D and its end.

In barrow 6, a large layer of burnt bones was found at the bottom of the central grave. An analysis of its shape (bone clusters in the shape of well-defined lumps) indicates that more than a dozen deceased were buried there. Additionally, in the upper part of the pit, over this layer, the next eight to ten burials were discovered. As the anthropological analysis and the conservation of the artefacts (a series of brooches, belt buckles, and other parts of a belt) have not been completed yet, it is not possible to determine the exact number of burials, match the artefacts to them, or determine the assemblages and their stratigraphic sequence. However, the tentative data allows us to say that the burials were deposited between at least the developed Phase D and the early Phase E.

At the bottom of barrow 1, a pit burial covered with the remains of a pyre was found, which occurs rarely in this group. There were three urn graves over it, and in the upper parts of the filling of the pit there were two more pit burials. This is the latest barrow in the site, as under the mound a five-knobbed brooch was found, and a series of similar iron and bronze buckles with a flared metope on the tongue were discovered in the features, which dates the whole structure to developed Phase E (Szymański 2017, Fig. 4).

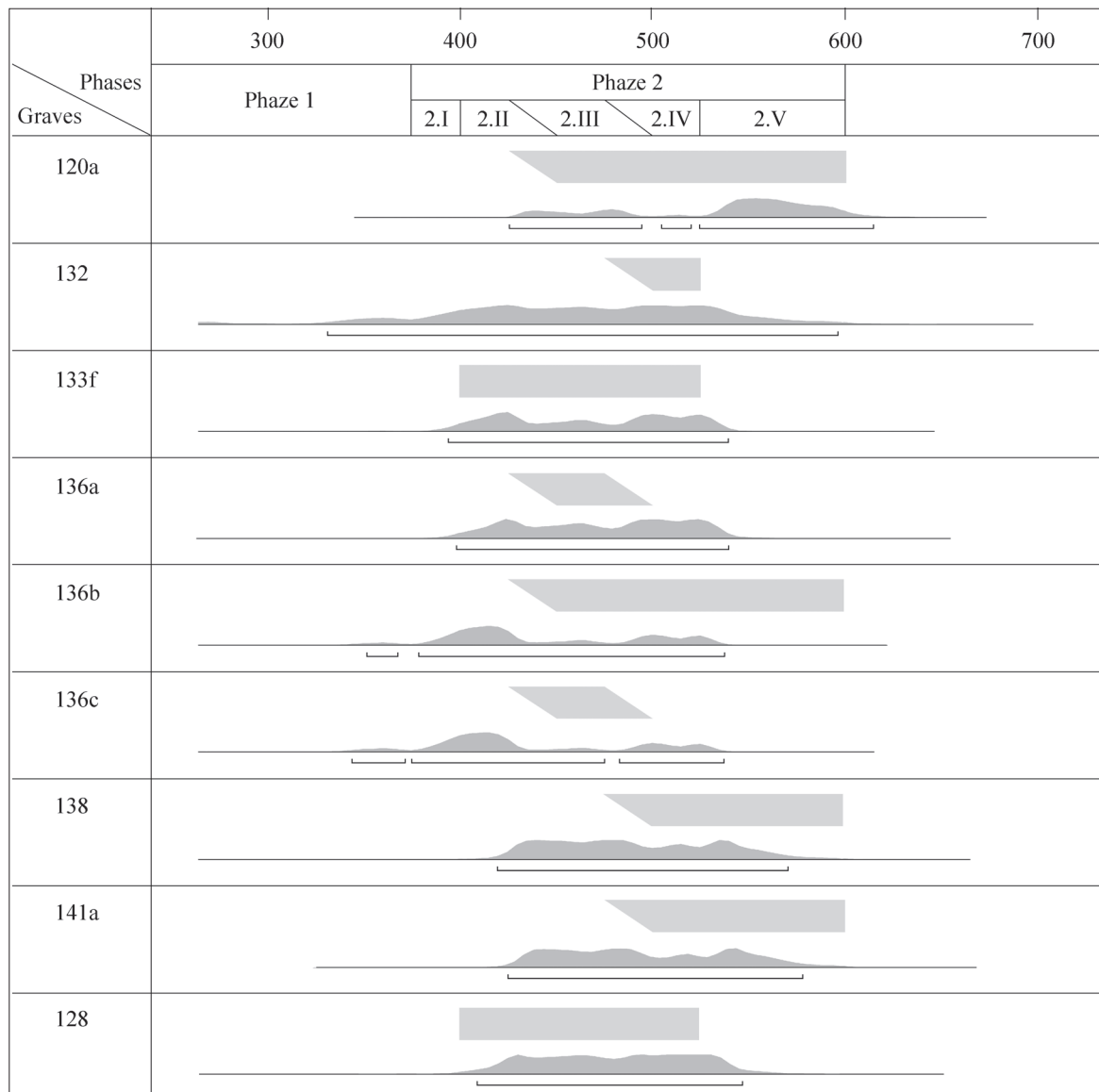
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	Chronology of the West Balt zone	Phases of the Gołdap Group
600 —	E <sub>3</sub>	
	E <sub>2</sub>	2.V
500 —	E <sub>1</sub>	2.IV
	D <sub>3</sub>	2.III
	D <sub>2</sub>	2.II
400 —	D <sub>1</sub>	2.I
300 —	C <sub>2</sub>	1

Fig. 7. A chronology of the development of the Gołdap Group (compiled by P. Szymański).

Fig. 8. Datings of selected graves in barrow 26 in Czerwony Dwór based on a typological analysis of the finds and radio-carbon analysis (after Goslar 2018; Szymański 2018).



The most complex stratigraphic sequences were discovered in barrow 26, which is the best example of a family mound. This was the richest barrow at the site, and also in the whole Gołdap Group. It contained about 30 secondary burials, both pit and urn graves, with the remains of at least 44 deceased. It yielded 12 brooches, 12 belt buckles, and a series of other artefacts: rings, amber and glass beads, and an antler comb (Szymański 2015).

The majority of the secondary burials had stratigraphic relations. Most of them were deposited in the pit of the central grave (feature 133; Fig. 3.2, 4). As in other barrows, there was a layer of clean bones of five or six deceased persons at the bottom. It was covered with stone paving (called the bottom paving), on which about nine urn and pit burials had been gradually deposited. These were also covered with paving (called the top paving). There were eight more burials on this paving. All the burials in the central pit had been deposited over quite a long time: from the beginning of Phase D until the developed Migration Period: therefore, for at least 100 years, and possibly much longer.

Unusually, this barrow has another concentration of burials dug into one another next to the central grave, which make up distinct columns of urns arranged one over the other. These were six burials dug into a large, very rich double urn grave (feature 136; Fig. 10). Based on the grave goods from these features, it can be established that the structure was used from the developed Phase D until the developed Phase E.

Family barrows with series of secondary burials were found at other Gołdap Group cemeteries investigated before the Second World War. There are mentions in prewar literature that younger burials were sometimes dug into earlier ones. This concerns especially the central graves which contained bones, probably of many deceased, as at Czerwony Dwór. A large number were found in the cemetery at Stara Boćwinka (Stadie 1919c, 421-437). However, while it is possible to distinguish the respective assemblages of bones during contemporary excavations, this cannot be done for prewar ones. In most cases, we do not have either detailed descriptions of these features, or drawings, only lists of artefacts. However, even the most detailed descriptions, like the ones made by K. Stadie, for example, are not sufficient to distinguish respective burials (Stadie 1919c, 435-436). Thanks to the finds from Czerwony Dwór, we can understand the character and construction of these structures, but it is not possible to determine the separate assemblages or their stratigraphy.

For this reason, some of these features have a limited value for compiling a chronology of the Gołdap Group, for we know that the finds do not form a closed assemblage.

All of the above indicates that an analysis of the finds from Czerwony Dwór is of crucial importance to studies of the chronology of the Gołdap Group. The other necropolises may only be considered as complementary material, helpful in verifying the phases distinguished.

### The chronology of the Gołdap Group in the Migration Period<sup>1</sup>

Based on an analysis of the recurrence of finds in closed assemblages, completed with the datings of the respective types of finds, it was possible to distinguish five phases in the development of the Gołdap Group during the Migration Period, and thus within Phase 2 (Phases 2.I-2.V). Next, an attempt is made to synchronise these phases with the relative chronology used for the West Balt lands and the absolute chronology.

For the subdivision of Phase D, the work of A. Bitner-Wróblewska and J. Okulicz was used, as well as the most complete system used so far for the Danubian lands. The subdivision of Phase E was based on the conclusions of J. Okulicz (1988) and J. Kowalski (2000; cf. Szymański 2013, Fig. 92). The suggestions by K. Godłowski (1970; 1974) and W. Nowakowski (2006) have also been used. The following chronological system has been adopted:

Phase D	– 375-475
Phase D1	– 375-400
Phase D2	– 400-450
Phase D3	– 450-475
Phase E	– 475-650/675
Phase E1	– 475-525
Phase E2	– 525-600
Phase E3	– 600-650/675 AD

The greatest difficulty was in determining the exact absolute datings of the distinguished phases. In order to verify the dates of the respective phases, a series of physico-chemical analyses was performed, especially the 14C analysis of the organic samples and the thermoluminescence analysis of the vessel fragments collected from the finds from Czerwony Dwór. Two samples came from barrow 18, and 39 samples from the richest barrow 26 (Goslar 2018). A comparison

<sup>1</sup> About the mixed assemblages in the Gołdap Group barrows, see: Kontny, Szymański 2015, 337; Szymański 2009, 272-274; 2017, 244.



of the results of these analyses revealed quite clearly that the chronology presented above is correct. Even though datings made with the use of physico-chemical analyses are broader than datings of the phases, it should be stressed that they are not contradictory (Fig. 8; Szymański 2018).

### The period before the Prudziska Phase in the Gołdap Group

Phase 1 is dated to the Younger Roman Period. At that time, the Gołdap Group used barrows with one grave located at the centre, sometimes composed of two or three burials. There were no secondary features in the mounds (with some exceptions). These relatively small barrows (up to five metres in diameter) usually had a stone mantle composed of several (three or four) layers of pebbles, surrounded by a circle of slightly larger stones (Szymański 2013, 48-51).

At the cemetery in Czerwony Dwór, this phase is very clearly marked by the southeast cluster of barrows.

The end of Phase 1, i.e., Phase C2 of the Younger Roman Period, is very poor in special finds. It is distinguished by characteristic brooches, especially late crossbow brooches with a tied foot, brooches with a double chord called Type Greibau (Szymański 2006, 372-374), and brooches with a rectangular chord.

#### Phase 2.I

Phase 2.I is the first stage of the Prudziska Phase of Sudovian culture. At the cemetery of Czerwony Dwór, it is determined by the formation of a northwest concentration of barrows. In that phase, the family or clan barrows were built because their mounds usually had up to dozens of dug-in burials. They differed from those dated to the Younger Roman Period, as they had an earth mound covered with one or two layers of stone paving. They were slightly larger, usually eight metres in diameter. In the central grave, concentrations of clean burnt bones were deposited at the bottom of the pit: they contained up to a dozen burials, located so close that they formed a large, over one-metre-long layer of bones.

Phase 2.I is poor in special finds, but richer than the previous one. The assemblages usually contain one brooch, or, more rarely, two, a belt buckle, and sometimes a strap end.

This phase is distinguished by brooches with a tied foot of Type Almgren 172 (Fig. 9.1). They recur with buckles with a thick oval-shaped loop and a characteristically small metope at the proximal end of the tongue (Fig.

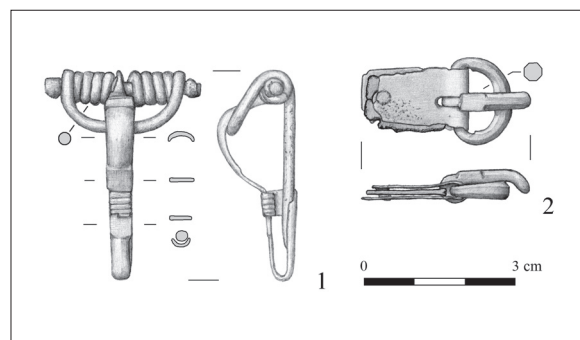


Fig. 9. Artefacts from Phase 2.I of the Gołdap Group: Czerwony Dwór, barrow 28, grave 33, burial 6 (after Szymański 2013).

9.2), as well as numerous amber beads, usually typical of Phases I-III hemispherical beads (Paukenperlen), and also tongue-shaped strap ends.

The single brooches with a tied foot, which are developed forms of Type Almgren 167 from the Younger Roman Period, and the few spade-footed brooches, should also be dated to this phase.

Brooches of Type Almgren 172 can generally be dated to Phases C3/D1 (Woźniak 2015, 317). In the area of the Gołdap Group, however, they are found together with artefacts typical of the Migration Period, i.e., at least Phase D1 with buckles with an oval loop and a small metope on the prick and the tongue-shaped strap ends. So it seems that Phase 2.I is related to phase D1 of the Early Migration Period, and should be dated to 375-400 AD.

#### Phase 2.II

Artefacts distinctive of Phase 2.II are rare brooches of Type Schönwarling/Skowarcz. At Czerwony Dwór, they were found in feature 184, the central grave of barrow 5 (Fig. 5.8). In Phase 2.II, there may have appeared star-footed brooches of Type II and the earliest brooches of Type Dollkeim/Kovrovo (Fig. 5.6), but they are most numerous in the next phase.

In Phase 2.II, there are still buckles with an oval-shaped thickened loop decorated at the proximal end of the tongue with a small metope (Fig. 5.3,7), and hemispherical amber beads (Paukenperlen).

It seems that Phase II should be considered as parallel to Phase D2 of the Early Migration Period, and dated to 400-450 AD. This very wide time span does not seem realistic; however, the number of assemblages and artefacts discovered for that phase is rather low in comparison with the next Phase 2.III. For that reason, Phase 2.II should perhaps be shortened by a few dozen years in favour of Phase 2.III.

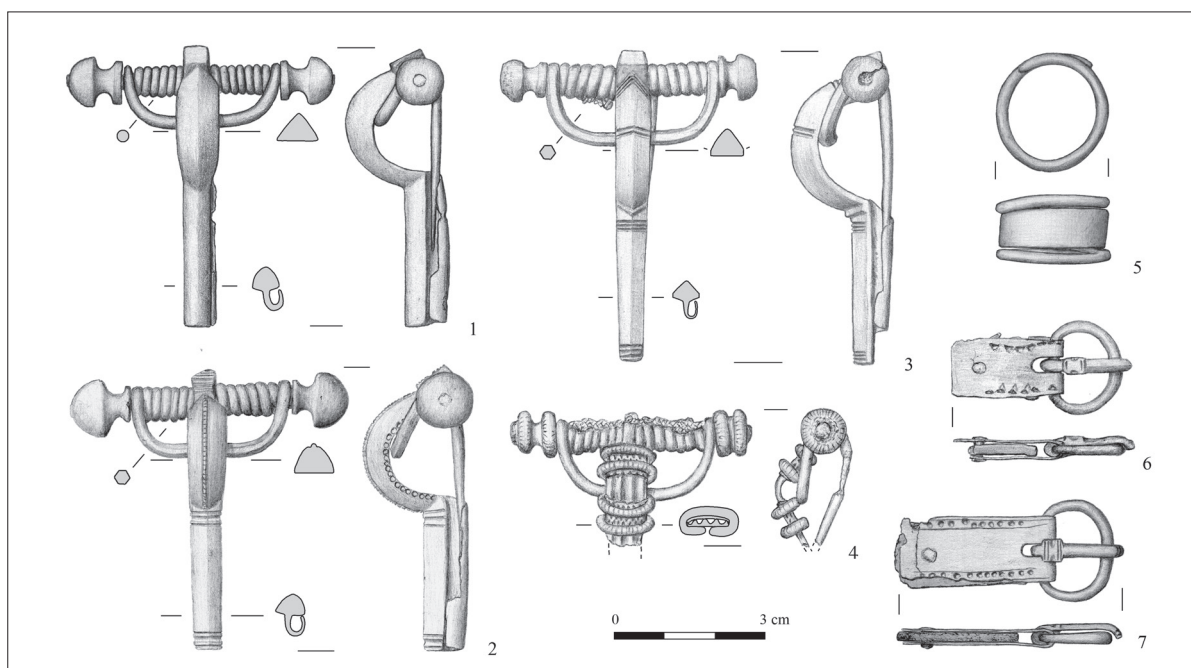


Fig. 10. Artefacts from Phase 2.III of the Goldap Group: Czerwony Dwór, barrow 26, grave 136 (selection) (drawn by P. Szymański).

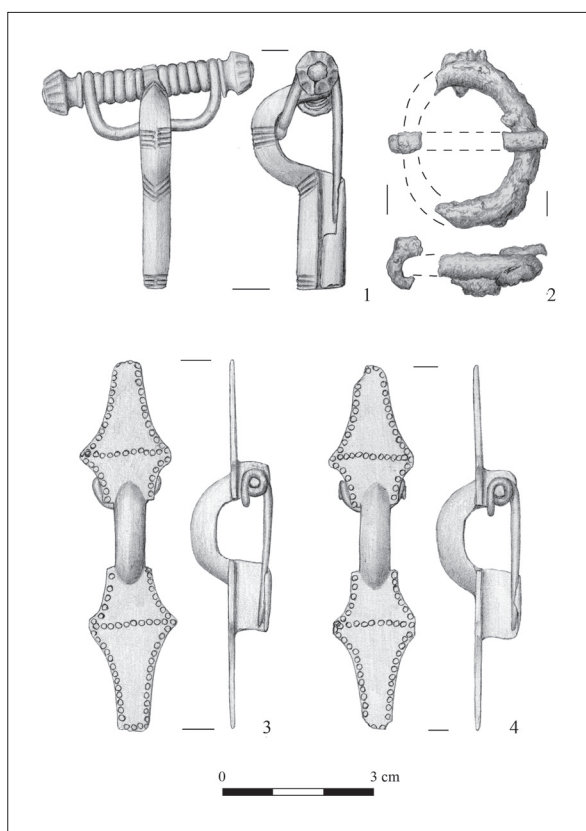


Fig. 11. Artefacts from Phase 2.III of the Goldap Group: Czerwony Dwór, barrow 18, grave 33, burial 7 (after Szymański 2013).

### Phase 2.III

At the cemetery in Czerwony Dwór, this phase is represented by at least ten burial assemblages, which makes it the richest phase at this necropolis and in the whole Goldap Group. Also, the assemblages are the most elaborate: they often include two or three brooches, whole series of belt buckles, and, more rarely, belt mounts.

The determinants of this phase are three-armed brooches, and the numerous brooches of Type Dollkeim/Kovrovo (Fig. 10.1,2, 11.1) that occur with them. There are also single brooches of an intermediate variant between Dollkeim/Kovrovo and Schönwarling/Skowarcz (Fig. 10.3), even-armed items (Fig. 11.3,4), brooches decorated with rings of incised wire (Fig. 10.4), and brooches with a metope at the end of the foot (they gave rise to the later Schlusskreuzfibeln). The star-footed brooches Type II can also probably be included in this phase, but this suggestion is not based on their occurrence with other types, but on the general dating.

The above-mentioned artefacts are accompanied by buckles with two types of decoration of the tongue: specimens with a small metope typical of earlier phases (this is the last phase in which they appear), and the new-style ones with a delicately flared metope (Fig. 10.6,7).

In that phase, single Paukenperlen type beads are still found, this being their last phase.

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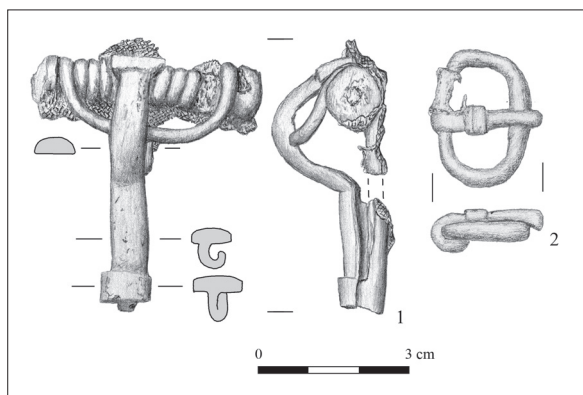


Fig. 12. Artefacts from Phase 2.IV of the Goldap Group: Czerwony Dwór, barrow 26, grave 132 (after Szymański 2013).

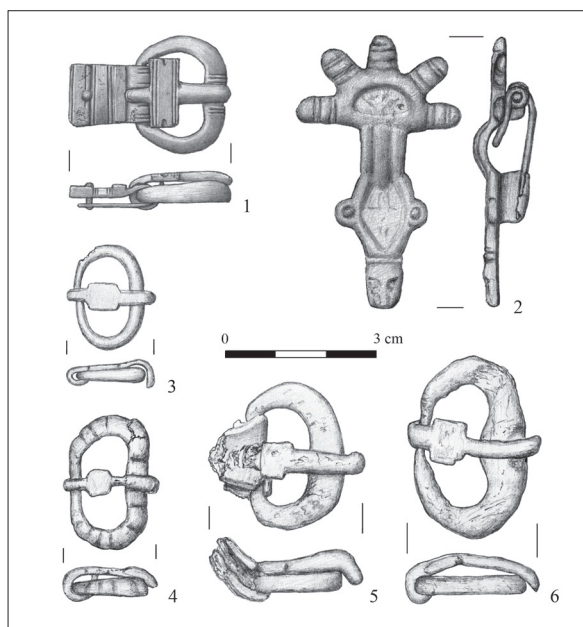


Fig. 13. Artefacts from Phase 2.V of the Goldap Group from the cemetery at Czerwony Dwór: 1 barrow 25, grave 116a; 2 barrow 2, a find from under the mantle; 3 barrow 1, near feature 181b; 4 barrow 1, feature 181d; 5 barrow 1, feature 181c; 6 barrow 1, feature 181b (after Szymański 2017).

An assemblage characteristic of Phase 2.III is that from double burial 136 (barrow 26) at Czerwony Dwór (Fig. 10). It contained brooches of type Dollkeim/Kovrovo, a brooch of the intermediate type between Schönwarling/Skowarcz and Dollkeim/Kovrovo, a brooch decorated with rings made from incised wire, and two buckles with an oval-shaped thickened loop, one with a tongue decorated with a small metope, and the other with a flared metope.

Phase 2.III should be linked with Phase D3 and the turn of Phase D and E. As has already been said, there is a considerable disproportion between the number of finds from Phase 2.II and 2.III. The beginning of Phase 2.III should probably be moved back slightly, and the whole phase dated to 425/450-475-500 AD.

#### Phase 2.IV

In Phase 2.IV, considerable changes occurred in burial rites in the cemetery at Czerwony Dwór. The central graves, consisting of layers of clean burnt bones, began to disappear, and were replaced by urn graves. An example of such a construction is barrow 25 at Czerwony Dwór described above, with a series of urns in the central grave. Similar changes in the burial rites can also be seen in other cemeteries, especially Stara Boćwinka.

The grave goods became much poorer than in Phase 2.III. They usually consist of one brooch and a buckle. Other ornaments, such as a pendant or a belt mount, are rare (Fig. 6:2-5, 10).

Phase 2.IV is determined by crossbow brooches with an enlargement at the end of the foot (Schlusskreuzförmig; Fig. 12.1). They occurred together with buckles with an oval-shaped thickened loop and a characteristic flared metope on the tongue (Fig. 12.2), and sporadically with a well-marked bar.

Phase 2.IV of the Goldap Group may be linked to Phase E1 of the Late Migration Period, and dated to 475/500-525, so it overlaps with Phase 2.III.

#### Phase 2.V

In this phase, the burials become even poorer, and it is difficult to point at artefacts typical of that period (Szymański 2017, 242-246). They comprise only single brooches in various forms, especially the scarce radiate-headed brooches (Fig. 13.2), which were probably imported from the neighbouring Olsztyn Group.

Phase 2.V yielded a series of buckles with an oval-shaped thickened loop, with a considerably flared metope on the tongue (Fig. 13.3-6; they appeared earlier on) and relatively rare specimens with a cross-shaped tongue (Fig. 13.1). More often than in the previous phases, iron specimens may occur (Fig. 13.4-6). They were found, among others, in barrow 1 in Czerwony Dwór, in burials dug into the central grave.

It seems that in Phase 2.V, new barrows were built more rarely, and existing ones were mainly used. The finds from Czerwony Dwór show clear changes in the way they were built. The few newly built barrows did

not have a mound of paving on the top, but consisted of rather flat, wide paving (Szymański 2017, 246-247).

Phase 2.V should be linked with Phase E2 of the Late Migration Period, which dates it to 525-600 AD.

No artefacts have been found in the area of the Gołdap Group which can clearly be related to a period later than Phase E2, so this is the latest phase of the discussed group.<sup>2</sup> Of course, the settlement in the area, and even the use of barrow cemeteries, could have continued into the seventh century, as in the neighbouring Olsztyn Group, but this has not been confirmed by the finds.

### Summing up

The chronology of the Gołdap Group presented in this paper concerns the Migration Period, the heyday of the group. It may considerably facilitate the dating of new finds and the analysis of the results of earlier excavations. What is more important, it will allow us to compare the development of the respective necropolises in northeast Masuria. The similarities of some artefacts to ones found in neighbouring areas, especially the Olsztyn Group and Dollkeim-Kovrovo culture, will make it easier to synchronise the development of the Gołdap Group and other Balt cultural units.

The next step is to determine the chronological divisions in the Younger Roman Period, i.e., Phase 1 of the Gołdap Group. The difficulty here is that there are far fewer finds from that period (the graves in that period were much poorer). However, the new excavations in the cemetery at Czerwony Dwór and the analysis of the results of the prewar excavations may provide sufficient sources to implement this plan.

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<sup>2</sup> The article presents the author's conclusions concerning the Gołdap Group chronology. The limited space of this article does not allow us to present a full analysis of the artefacts and grave assemblages, or extensive arguments for distinguishing the respective phases. On that subject, see: Szymański 2018.

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## II

FROM BONZE AGE TO MEDIEVAL: MATERIAL CULTURE AS A REFLECTION OF CHANGES IN SOCIETIES

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**PASTABOS DĒL GELDAPĒS  
 (GOŁDAP) GRUPĒS  
 CHRONOLOGIJOS TAUTŲ  
 KRAUSTYMOŠI LAIKOTARPIU  
 CZERWONY DWŌR KAPINYNO  
 ATVEJU**

**PAWEŁ SZYMAŃSKI**

**Santrauka**

Šiame straipsnyje pristatomi nauji Geldapės (Gołdap) grupės pilkapių tyrimų duomenys, kurie yra glaudžiai susiję su Šiuo kultūros raida Tautų kraustymosi laikotarpiu. Šią kapinyno grupę sudaro 37 pilkapynai, kuriuose aptikta degintinių mirusiųjų palaidojimų (1–3 pav.). Šiuose pilkapynuose, ypač iš Czerwony Dwór pilkapyno, buvo aptikta daug palaidojimų su gausiomis įkapėmis, kurios įgalina patikslinti ir nustatyti tikslią šių palaidojimų chronologiją (4–6 pav.). Detalus Geldapės pilkapių grupės įkapių tyrimų duomenys įgalina nustatyti šio nekropolio chronologiją. Remiantis tyrinėtų pilkapių duomenimis, Geldapės grupės pilkapuose galima išskirti penkis mirusiųjų laidojimo etapus – nuo tautų kraustymosi D periodo iki E2 periodo (7 ir 8 pav.). Šie Geldapės nekropolio tyrimai įgalina nustatyti ir patikslinti laidojimo papročių raidą gana plačioje Šiaurės rytų Mozūrijos dalyje. Geldapės pil-

kapynų grupės laidojimo papročių ir įkapių palyginimas su Olštyno grupės ir Dollkeimo-Kovrovo kultūros laidojimo paminklų įkapėmis įgalina nustatyti baltų kultūros raidą jau nuo ankstyvojo romėniškojo laikotarpio (9–13 pav.).

II

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