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OSTARBEITERS: PORTRAIT OF DISPOSSESSED WORKERS

Introduction. A lot of researches, documentaries, fiction and nonfiction literature is devoted to the study of the German-Soviet War, and the role of Ukraine in the Second World War. Notes and other resources from ostarbeiters` history play an important role in the war period.

Ostarbeiters were predominantly young residents of occupied territories of the USSR (in Borders till 1939), who were taken out for coercive work to the Reich during the Second World War and used in various branches of the German economy, first of all – the industry, rural and domestic economies.

Getting acquainted with the letters they sent from captivity we can try to restore the realities of this terrible war history period. Unfortunately, for a long time in the Soviet Union, this page was like blind spots. Probably, the study of the tragic fate of people who worked for enemies wasn't needed at that time. In the confirmation of this, we know that those who returned from the other side of barricades were often declared "people`s enemies", "traitors", some were sent even to the Gulag, where they, unbroken by Nazi machine, were killed by a totalitarian system. Ukrainian researcher T. V. Pastushenko said, that the history of those workers of the Third Reich, was for a long time forgotten, ousted from the official memory. In the early 90's of the last century these gaps in history were observed and played a great role in the creation of a "new", "non-Soviet" vision of the events of the Second World War. And, really, now studying of workers` lives is gaining greater importance. It has become a topical issue, because it is so interesting for scientists to fill these gaps with primary sources, such as letters, personal diaries, etc., to investigate the use of coercive, almost free, labor, to know what was actually happening behind the walls of labor camps and how the "portrait" of enslaved in those difficult times looked.

Review of the recent publications. W. Herbert was the first who began to investigate this problem in 1986 from a monograph entitled “Foreign Workers: Policies and Practices for the Application of the Work of Foreigners in the War and the Economy of Reich”. Researcher such as T. V. Pastushenko was engaged in a detailed study of the letters of ostarbeiters in Ukraine. In 2009, she published her monograph “Ostarbeiters of the Kyiv Region: Recruitment, Coercive Labor, Repatriation (1942-1953)”. Also, the letters of workers of the Third Reich were studied by such well-known researchers as M. Yu. Chirkova (Publication “Letters of ostarbeiters as an example of the documents of personal origin”), A. V. Meliakov (work “Ostarbeiters from Kharkiv region”) and other scientists.

Objectives of the paper. The purpose of this study is to determine the themes of letters of the workers from Germany to their homeland and to identify them basing on the image of the usual ostarbeiter.

Results of the research. In the study of the letters, content analysis was used. All 15 letters were divided into 14 categories, which explored the following issues: “What and for whom ostarbeiter wrote most often, how did they eat, where did they work, how many hours and how much did they get for their work? What were the living conditions? What volume was allowed to write in one letter and what words?” and many others.

The research used the collection “Letters of workers taken to Stalino region from the Germany during the interim German-fascist occupation” that are stored in State archive of Donetsk region, F. P – 1988, Op. 1. Collection Counts 15 652 letters. 15 letters are used in this research. In the description of the case indicated that the letters were transferred to the secret storage of relatives immediately after the liberation of the area. Materials Foundation were declassified in 1971.

An analysis of the letters of the Donetsk region’s ostarbeiters found that the labor camps were located in all parts of Germany from the West (Menden) to the East (Berlin) and from the South (Freiburg) to the North (Samberg). Each step of the workers was strictly controlled, all parcels were checked in the Gestapo, the letters were censored, everything was controlled from content to volume written. The volume of the letter was small from 20 to 30 lines. Some forms even contained the phrase: “Write legibly and only in lines!” – a significant limitation in volume. In almost all the letters can be seen the same words: “I am alive, well and that I wish for you” – in my opinion, it all manifests a rigid censorship. A few who wrote details, wrote mostly that everything was good or bearable. There were also several cases where the words were intentionally erased or, in which half of the letter was painted with ink, what made it impossible to read the text.

Photo cards played a very important role. Ostarbeiters either asked to send a photo or sent them themselves – it is found in almost each letter, and most likely, the real state of affairs could be judged exactly on the appearance, because it is a powerful indicator. As a rule, workers from Stalino region wrote to their close relatives in surzhyk (often with a large number of grammatical, lexical and punctuation mistakes) and in Russian, they asked about the things happening at home, sometimes asked to send some things by parcel, and often complained that they had not received letters from relatives (or friends) for a long time – and this

exactly undermined their morale even stronger. Young people, regardless of gender, worked on hard works in an irregular working day (more than 10 hours). Someone of them wrote “The work is not very good: gas and hot. I am working on a coat and a bathrobe...” [1: 1470]. For their work they received pittances (5-12 marks, sometimes more –48 stamps), which were not enough even for small purchases. Most of the workers who wrote about food said they were fed twice a day with something hot and gave 300 grams of bread [1: 410], and for a particularly heavy work they were given 400 grams of bread and 50 grams of margarine twice a week [1: 1236]. As we see, the food was not enough to even completely recover strength after a hard day of work. According to the letters there is no information about living conditions, one person mentioned that he lived in a camp with torturing headache, and from this small amount of information we can conclude that the conditions of the workers’ retention were terrible. Another moment is the psycho-emotional state of the workers, many wrote that they missed their families, some wrote that they were fine, but in such letters the words were chosen in such way that everything was clear. But young people are young, and those who still had strength, tried to entertain themselves: went to the cinema (but under the supervision), walked with friends, etc. Illustrative are greetings and farewells. Writing greeting letters, workers usually pointed out their sadness for their homeland and relatives and asked to write more about life in Ukraine. Even so, analyzing letters we may find that usually letters were full of sorrow and sounded as a final farewell.

Conclusion. Basing on letter analysis we can come to the following conclusion: almost all senders concerned about the lives of the relatives in Ukraine. Also important for ostarbeiters was to tell in brief of life in Germany mainly about working conditions, accommodation and about food they wrote little and with no desire, they possibly wanted, but tough censorship did not allow them to do it, the truth was penalized very rigidly, therefore they were limited by a few words with neutral evaluation of all that they had to suffer. During the war they were rightless and destitute a social group in Germany. Therefore, we can confidently say about existence of choice between bad life and death. So, these letters are the invaluable sources of research of the topic of the war. They should be studied, in order to understand for what tragedies can lead blind belief to determined idea.

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ACTIVATION OF UKRAINE-LITHUANIA RELATIONS IN THE CONDITIONS OF RUSSIAN MILITARY AGGRESSION (2013-2016)

Introduction. The study of interstate cooperation between Ukraine and Lithuania is relevant in view of the fact that both states share a historical past, established and restored their independence only in the early 90's of the XX century. The research about interstate cooperation in the background of security challenges and European integration of Ukraine is an important scientific issue and a crucial factor in terms of implementation of European foreign policy vector. It is worth noting that the security issues in the region of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) are still important due to the intensification of the Russian Federation's aggressive policy. Under such threats, Lithuania is carrying out preventive diplomacy, strengthening its defense capabilities and providing powerful military support for Ukraine.

Objectives of the paper: comprehensive analysis of the processes of formation and development of the main directions of Ukrainian-Lithuanian intergovernmental cooperation in the political, security, defense, economic, cultural and humanitarian spheres.

Review of recent publications. The history of Ukraine and Lithuania is based on a sufficiently strong foundation, which creates promising conditions for future bilateral relations nowadays. Cooperation between Ukraine and Lithuania can now be seen as an example of using the past in order to strengthen relations in the future. This is probably due to a number of factors: inter-state relations are largely centered around common challenges, threats and prospects in the security system in the context of Russia's occupation of the territory of Ukraine; guaranteeing the security of Lithuania and Ukraine in the conditions of information warfare; increase of defense efficiency of both states; overcoming of the economic and political burdens of the socialist past, and thus – successful European integration to the European and Euro-Atlantic structures, which creates the basis for the stable economic development of the entire region; clear historical memory and awareness of the seriousness, magnitude and depth of the threat posed both directly to the CEE region and to the whole world [2: 17; 5].

To illustrate this idea it is worth mentioning that the President of the Republic of Lithuania, Dalia Grybauskaitė, is considered to be one of the most powerful lobbyists