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CAMPS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN WESTERN KAZAKHSTAN

Annotation. *The article deals with the problems dedicated to one of the largest camps in the GULAG system during the Stalinist repressions of 1920-1950. Networks of camps of political prisoners, during the years of repression, were also located on the territory of modern Western Kazakhstan region. The proposed article examines the history of the formation of the Bezymyan Camp of political prisoners (1940-1946), located on the border between the Bayterek district of the West Kazakhstan region (formerly Zelenovsky district) and the Samara region of the Russian Federation and the camp near the village of Saykhyn Bokey-Ordinsky district. Documentary sources have been summarized on the topic of the study, previously published literature has been analyzed. The reason for the formation of political prisoners, the territory of deployment, the contingent, the household, social status of prisoners. The directions of the research subject are determined, the methodology, bibliographic and special scientific works and reference documents are analyzed.*

Keywords: *West Kazakhstan region, NCIA, GULAG, Bezymyan Camp of political prisoners, Saykhyn, Camp, political repression, research materials.*

Introduction

On November 24, 2020, the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan K.K. Tokaev signed the Decree "On the establishment of the state commission for full acquittal of victims of political repression". The main task here is to restore historical justice to the innocent victims of political repression on the basis of international standards and values, to return their honest and good names to the people and their descendants.

In accordance with the task of the head of the state to fully exonerate the victims of political persecution, regional working groups have been formed locally and are conducting extensive research on the victims of political persecution and camps of political prisoners in the Kazakh steppe. One of the areas of scientific research on this issue is the study of the detention centers, network of camps and offices of the NCIA in Kazakhstan during the Stalin years.

The period of political repression in the 20s-50s of the 20th century is a tragic period in Kazakh history. Historical documents indicate that the Gulag system was systematically established in the USSR, and 21 correctional labor camps were established in the territory of the Kazakh SSR [1, p. 160]. The camps of political prisoners in the West Kazakhstan region served the Gulag system and were divided into several directions in the Ural region. One of them was the Bezymyan Labor Correctional Camp (Bezymyanlag LCC) located on the border of Baiterek District (former Zelenov District) of West Kazakhstan Region and Samara Region of the Russian Federation.

In the course of writing the article, we aimed to study historical documents related to the historical location of the Bezymyan correctional labor camp, which operated in the period 1940-1946 in the border area of the Baiterek district of West Kazakhstan region (formerly Zelenov



district) and the Samara region of the Russian Federation, its activities, contingent, and the domestic and social conditions of its prisoners. The article analyzed the formation process and functional functions of the camps in the region during the years of Stalinist repressions. In addition, we understand that the activities of the camps in the territory of West Kazakhstan were carried out in the context of the development of the system of forced labor, which was widely used in the Soviet Union in the 30s and 50s of the 20th century.

Research materials and methods

In the analysis of the historiography of the issue under consideration, historiographical data in a number of foreign publications, monographs, scientific articles, periodical and non-periodical publications form its data base.

General methodological principles of historiography, such as historicity, authenticity and sociality, were used for the comprehensive study of the problem. In the research, special historiographical methods of analysis, real and logical analysis, systematization, retrospective, comparative-historical methods were used. The theoretical and methodological bases of special historiography in the works of domestic and foreign scientists were used as general methodological principles and methods.

Bezmyan camp of political prisoners on the border of Western Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation is one of the subjects that has not been specially researched in the science of national history. Fundamental researches on this topic have not taken place. There are almost no works that study the issue from a historiographic point of view. This indicates that the history of political repression camps in the region in the 1920s-1950s has not been studied as a complex research object. The reason for this is that archival documents related to the mentioned topic are kept very secret, and some important documents are destroyed according to military secrecy. Nevertheless, we tried to conduct research using historiographical data, monographs, scientific articles, candidate theses, and periodicals of domestic and foreign historians.

In 1997, several encyclopedias, archival documents and collections of data and scientific collections were published in connection with the year of commemoration of the victims of persecution in Kazakhstan. At the same time, the information "Azaly kitab/A book of mourning" published in West Kazakhstan region in 2001 under the organization of the editorial board of P. Inochkin, the director of the archive of the WKO, undoubtedly gave the main direction of research work [2].

In "Azaly Kitab" in 1930-150, about 4 thousand people were punished outside the court in the present-day West Kazakhstan region, including in 1937, 853 people were exiled, 355 were shot, and in 1938, 936 people were arrested, and 690 people were victims of the highest punishment - shooting. is said. However, the 2021 Victims of Persecution vindication task force, analyzing all available data (this work is still ongoing), has determined that the true picture is far greater than the figures presented.

Research results

Totalitarianism in the 20th century was far superior to totalitarianism in Ancient Egypt. Totalitarianism of the Soviet type has reached its highest peak in terms of duration and ferocity. The issue of political persecution is one of the topical topics that will never lose its importance. The GULAG system is one of the most difficult topics that will remain in the people's memory forever. Among a number of fundamental works published today, there is information about the camps of political prisoners, mainly about the camps of KARLAG, STEPLAG, Prorva and Aktobe. We started the search for the Bezmyan camp, one of the forced labor camps in the Gulag system, from the West Kazakhstan regional state archive. During the review of specific documents related to this topic, we identified at least a few archival cases. They are stored in the regional archive fund No. 24, list 3, case No. 340 (we preferred to leave the name of the case in the language of the document - the authors) --"Minutes of meetings of the Presidium of the Ural and Guryev Executive



Committees, lists of forced labor in camps and daily information about changes in as part of workers and servicemen who do not work" [3] and fund №122, list 1, case 237 - "The case of the warden of the concentration camp Shayakhmetov in complicity in the escape of Prigorodny) [4]. The documents found in the meetings of the Presidium of the Executive Committees of Ural and Guryev include documents on the situation of correctional labor camps in the region, the prisoners there and their work schedules. Analyzing the contents of the materials, it was found that a network of prison camps during the years of political repression worked in the West Kazakhstan region, which was previously unknown. Protocols and lists of prisoners in the documents testify to the operation of these camps.

The territory of the Bezymyan correctional labor camp is shown on the map of the Gulag system of the USSR in the work "Karlag" / Karagandy: "Bolashak" University/ published in the national historiography under the general editorship of N.O. Dulatbekov [5, 576 p.]. Also, in the book "Karlag: from the pen of prisoners" published under the general editorship of N.O. Dulatbekov, the NCIA of the USSR was assigned to the "Special constructions" section of the GULAG system, which was classified as top secret [5, 248 p.].

The history of correctional labor camps was found in the research of Russian scientists. In this topic, we should mention the handbook "Sistema izpravitel'no-trudovykh lagerey v SSSR: (The system of labor correctional camps in the USSR) 1923-1960" [6, p. 159], which fully covers the political camps in the GULAG system of the NCIA of the USSR. In the work, archival and documentary documents related to each labor correctional camp in the Gulag system of the NCIA of the USSR were differentiated and a scientific basis was created. In the study, the location of the camp is indicated as RF, Kuibyshev region, Kuibyshev railway, Bezymyanka station/telegraph code: "Osobstroy" ("Special constructions") / from September 25, 1940. In the following document: "construction of aviation factories №122 and 295, motor factory №377, airfield, road, rural settlement, renovation of Bezymyanskaya and Kuibyshevskaya TPP, construction and meh. factories, construction factories № 1, 18, 24, 35, 145, 165, 207, 305 and 454, car workshop plant, oil refinery plant № 443 in the district of station Kryazh. The functional services of the camp are listed: housing, communal and household facilities, the NKAP carbide plant, development of gravel pits, construction of a radio station, water supply, sewerage, tram tracks and depot, work at the state farm "KrasnyPahar", construction of facilities for Kuibyshevoiltechcomb" [7].

In 2021, E.A. Pisareva's scientific article "The influence of the Great Patriotic War on the economic activity of the camp system of the GULAG of NCIA (on the example of Bezymyanlag)" was published. The article shows and analyzes the economic activity of Bezymyanlag during the Great Patriotic War, its role in supplying the front with weapons (Il-2), as well as the violation of human rights and health protection in the camp [8].

The next book published under the leadership of A. V. Zakharchenko and A. I. Repinetsky is "Top secret. Osobstroy - Bezymyanlag. 1940-1946", the importance of this work: presentation of complete sources from archive documents of the Russian Federation during the period of existence of the camp from 1940 to 1946. Conclusions have been made regarding the work activities, sanitary and living conditions of the camp prisoners, including military prisoners and prisoners imprisoned for political crimes, the policy of the NC punitive bodies, and other camp activities [9].

Table 1. Location of Bezymyan Labor Correctional Camp. Share of camp residents on May 1, 1941

Name	Number of people	Production	Distance	Communication	Walking road communication
1	2	3	4	5	6
District 1 (precinct 7)	30 704	Plant construction	4 км	Телефон	Bezymyanst, highway
District 2	14 345	—	1 км	-	-



(precinct 2)					
District 3 (precinct 2)	4338	Aerodrome construction	8 км	-	Zubchaninovka st, highway
District 4 (precinct 3, secondment 2)	14 094	Civil construction, aerodrome construction	4 км	-	Bezymyanst, highway
Zhiguli district (precinct 5)	7181	Forestry and stone processing	35 км	-	Krasnaya Glinka st., highway
Mechanical plant precinct, Secondment 1	3957	Leather industry and stone processing	8 км	-	Bezymyanst, highway
Bezymyan precinct	5355	Construction of thermal power plant	3 км	-	-
Kuibyshev precinct	1205	-	24 км	-	Kuibyshev st., highway

Compiled by the author according to [9, pp. 47-48].

Table 2. Number of Bezymyanlag prisoners (1942-1946)

Date	25.03.1942	31.12.1942	01.03.1943	01.11.1943	01.10.1944	01.05.1945	01.03.1946
Number	51113	29811	23161	6135	7169	10680	5840

Compiled by the author according to [9, pp. 42-43].

Table 3. Number of deaths in Bezymyanlag (1940-1945)

Year	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	Total
Number of deaths	312	4923	5687	1778	91	107	12898

Compiled by the author according to [9, pp. 44-45].

As shown in the table, in 1941 the structure of the camp consisted of 8 districts and 22 plots. Functional activities are divided into 6 production areas. In addition to prisoners convicted of crimes in the camp, prisoners of war and prisoners imprisoned for political crimes performed various hard tasks in the labor camp.



There are many documents about this in the work "Bolshoy terror" in Kazakhstan" by I.M. Kozybaev. The collected documents reveal the activities of camps in the GULAG system in Kazakh territory, the territory of correctional labor camps within it, the condition of prisoners and other large-scale problems. For example, in the chapter "About Aktyubinsk oblast" "NachalnikuUralskogo RO - 30 ноября последняя тройка. 18 items will be considered from you. Из них по окраскам: nats. к-г -3, Povstancheskaya-10, Fashistskaya-5. What will happen if the other colors are considered as a warning. If the instruction "Obespecheto choekolichesit vookraskamukadanny mvyshе №1171" [10, p. 216] is given, the following documents describe various tricks to get them to confess to the mentioned charges. In the chapter "About West Kazakhstan oblast", he analyzes the names of prisoners and data from slavery cases [10, pp. 235-237]. But the criminal cases of individuals as a separate and long issue, so we decided not to dwell on it in this article.

In our previous articles, we showed that the networks of camps in the West Kazakhstan region, where the GULAG system was served, were divided into 3 directions. From 2,000 to 5,000 prisoners were kept there. They are Kamenlag, Bezymyanlag and Salavat Lager, ALGER's branch in Uralsk. In addition to these, 2 large important camp networks worked: Turkestan camp and Central Asian camp (Turkestansky camp, Sredneasiatsky camp). But this is only the oral data of the former employees of the agency. Exact documents have not yet been found, evidence is being considered.

Among them, information was found about the camp near the village of Saykhin in BokeiOrda district. This was determined by the testimony of a witness who worked as an accountant in the camp and by the testimony of local residents at the site of the camp. An article about this was also published in the local regional newspaper. "According to the witness old woman, some of the prisoners were Muslims. The prison authorities treated the convicts well. Convicts worked in railway and construction" - writes [11]. About the camps of political prisoners in the regions bordering West Kazakhstan, why the Soviet government attached great importance to the territories bordering Russia is also written openly in the work of A.S. Solzhnitsyn [12]. Careful readers and researchers can clearly understand the content of the repression policy and the ultimate goal of the Gulag network of camps after looking at this work.

Conclusion

The historical documents we have worked on prove that the GULAG system was systematically created in the USSR, and prisoners of correctional labor camps were forcibly used to raise the national economy. A lot of new information about the network of camps in the Gulag system and their activities is currently being published. In a number of valuable collections, research articles were also published [13], [14]. However, the existence of networks of camps in West Kazakhstan region remains unknown. Therefore, it is necessary to identify valuable and important data and documents that are still waiting for researchers. For example, it is currently known that there were several departments and subdivisions, farms and prisons of Bezymyan correctional labor camp.

Bezymyan correctional labor camp located on the border of Baiterek district (former Zelenov district) of the West Kazakhstan region and Samara region of the Russian Federation, prisoner camps in the territory of the West Kazakhstan region in general are relevant in domestic historiography as an important research object that needs to be studied.

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Байбулсинова А.С., Жолахова Г.Т., Шамгонова Р. БАТЫС ҚАЗАҚСТАНДАҒЫ САЯСИ ТҰТҚЫНДАР ЛАГЕРЛЕРІ

Аңдатпа. Мақалада 1920-1950 жылдардағы сталиндік қуғын-сүргін кезіндегі ГУЛАГ жүйесіндегі ең үлкен лагерьлердің біріне арналған мәселелер қарастырылады. Қуғын-сүргін жылдарында саяси тұтқындар лагерлерінің желілері қазіргі Батыс Қазақстан облысының аумағында да болды.

Ұсынылған мақалада Батыс Қазақстан облысының Бәйтерек ауданы (бұрынғы Зеленов ауданы) мен Ресей Федерациясының Самара облысы мен Бөкей – Орда ауданы Сайхино ауылының маңындағы лагерь арасындағы шекарада орналасқан саяси тұтқындардың атаусыз жалауының (1940-1946 жж.) пайда болу тарихы зерттеледі. Зерттеу тақырыбы бойынша деректі дереккөздер жинақталып, бұрын жарияланған әдебиеттер талданды. Саяси тұтқындардың атаусыз жалауын, орналасу аумағын,



контингентті, тұтқындардың тұрмыстық, әлеуметтік жағдайын құрудың себебі. Зерттеу тақырыбының бағыттары анықталды, әдістеме, библиографиялық және арнайы ғылыми еңбектер мен анықтамалық құжаттар талданды.

Кілт сөздер: Батыс Қазақстан облысы, НКВД, ГУЛАГ, саяси тұтқындардың атаусыз жалауы, Сайхино, лагерь, саяси қуғын-сүргін, зерттеу материалдары.

Байбулсинова А.С., Жолахова Г.Т., Шамгонова Р.

ЛАГЕРЯ ПОЛИТИЧЕСКИХ ЗАКЛЮЧЕННЫХ В ЗАПАДНОМ КАЗАХСТАНЕ

Аннотация. В статье рассматриваются проблемы, посвященные одному из крупнейших лагерей в системе ГУЛАГ в период сталинских репрессий 1920-1950 годов. Сети лагерей политических заключенных, в годы репрессий, находились и на территории современной Западной Казахстанской области.

В предлагаемой статье исследуется история образования Безымянлага политических заключенных (1940-1946 гг.), расположенному на границе между районом Байтерек Западно – Казахстанской области (бывший Зеленовский район) и Самарской областью Российской Федерации и лагерю вблизи села Сайхино Бокей-Ординского района. По теме исследования обобщены документальные источники, проанализированы ранее опубликованные литературы. Причина создания Безымянлага политических заключенных, территории дислокации, контингент, бытовое, социальное положение заключенных. Определены направления тематики исследования, проанализированы методология, библиографические и специальные научные труды и справочные документы.

Ключевые слова: Западно-Казахстанская область, НКВД, ГУЛАГ, Безымянлаг политических заключенных, Сайхино, лагерь, политические репрессии, материалы исследования.