

## **Special purpose units in the Simbirsk - Ulyanovsk province and their activities during the years of Soviet power: formation and organizational and personnel problems.**

**Unidades de propósito especial en la provincia de Simbirsk - Ulyanovsk y sus actividades durante los años del poder soviético: formación, problemas de organización y personal.**

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**Abstract:** The article is devoted to the formation of special forces of the Simbirsk province in 1919 – 1924. special purpose units (further in the text – SPU) - these are military and party detachments, which were formed at the district committees, city committees, and provincial committees of the party on the basis of the regulatory legal act of the Central Committee of the RCP (b) dated April 17, 1919. Special forces were organized mainly to assist the Red Army, the troops of the All-russian extraordinary commission to combat counter-revolution, as well as the police in solving a whole range of significant problems: suppressing the counter-revolutionary resistance of citizens, eliminating atrocious gangs, and ensuring the safety of objects of key importance. Such aspects of the topic are examined in detail: firstly, the prerequisites for the emergence of SPU units in the Simbirsk province, secondly, the formation and features of the activities of special units, thirdly, their personnel, fourthly, interaction with party structures and fifthly, features of training in military affairs in parts purpose units. The novelty of the study is that for the first time on the basis of a large stratum introduced into scientific circulation of previously classified unpublished archive documents, a comprehensive analysis of the creation and activities of special units of the Simbirsk province was carried out, including areas that were little explored, namely, the organization and principles of the cover service SPU. The main conclusion of the study - the existence of special forces in the Simbirsk province, contributed to the preservation and strengthening of the Soviet regime.

**Keywords:** civil war; Simbirsk province; the Bolsheviks; communist units; Special purpose units; Soviet power in the field; level of military training of special forces; Red Army.

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## **1. Introduction**

The victory of the Bolsheviks became a trigger that destabilized the social situation in the country and split civil society into two opposing camps: citizens who recognized the legitimacy of the Soviet government and their opponents. The Bolsheviks faced the need to immediately address a whole range of significant problems: firstly, suppress the counter-revolutionary resistance of citizens, secondly, eliminate the atrocious gangs, and thirdly, ensure the safety of objects of key importance. In this difficult period, special forces were formed to assist the Red Army, the All-Russian extraordinary commission to combat counter-revolution and the police. The joint coordinated activity of these structures allowed the Bolsheviks not only to provide conditions for the preservation of their power, but also to significantly strengthen it.

In modern realities, in domestic historical science, there is a tendency to increase interest in the problems of the formation and activity of special forces. The work was devoted directly to this topic: V. N. Fomin, M. N. Oganessian, I. V. Yablonsky, S. A. Marchenko, I. S. Silchenko, O. A. Loshmanov and A. N. Verezhnikov [Fomin, 1995; Hovhannisyán, 2001; Yablonsky, 2005; Marchenko, 2013; Silchenko, 2018; Loshmanov, 2015; Verezhnikov, 2017]. At the regional level, the problem of the establishment of the SPU of the Simbirsk province did not find a proper mention in the works of local historians, which reinforces the relevance of our article.

## **2. The formation of special forces on the territory of the Simbirsk province in 1918 - 1921**

In Soviet Russia, adopted in March 1918, the decree of the Central Committee of the RCP(b) “On the arming of the communists and training them in military affairs”, contributed to the beginning of the creation of special forces [Dmitriev, 1980, p. 44]. The main reasons for the creation of detachments, the head of the All-Education Central Administration, N. I. Podvoisky, considered political instability in the country, as well as an increase in social tension. Initially, special purpose units were organized in the spring of 1918 in Petrograd, Moscow, as well as in large industrial centers [State archive of contemporary history of Ulyanovsk region (SACHUR), f. 1, in. 1, d. 305, sh. 13].

In the Simbirsk province, the beginning of the appearance of this kind of detachments in district administrative units had different times, and their characteristic feature was the activity on a specific territorial unit and the dependence of bringing them into combat readiness on political realities in this locality. Mainly, local county committee and party structures took part in the organization of communist detachments

[Krotov, 1974, p. 18]. It seems worthwhile to mention that in the province party organizations when creating detachments developed advisory brochures that detailed key moments of the military profession, detailed commanders were assigned, combat missions were issued, which were mandatory for communist detachments. Directly in Simbirsk, three detachment organizations were formed: city, Zavolzhsky district committee and district Simbirsk [SACHUR, f. 1, in. 1, d.44, sh. 31].

In June 1918, before the force of Constituent Assembly Committee supporters attacked Simbirsk, the first squadron was created under the command of Aes, the number of which reached 290 soldiers. This detachment, by order of local authorities, entered the 1st Simbirsk Regiment [State archive of Ulyanovsk region (SAUR), f. R-200, in. 1, d. 31, sh. 5]. When, on July 22, 1918, the regiment was forced to retreat, the detachment was divided into two groups – one remained at the regiment, and the other was sent to Alatyry to ensure the safety of key infrastructure facilities and bulk points [SACHUR, f. 1, in. 1, d. 214, sh. 13]. Upon the liberation of the province from Komuch's supporters, the Red Army part of the Alatyry detachment was returned to Simbirsk, and the rest, consisting of 80 people, was sent to Kazan under the command of Vatsetsis. The fate of the soldiers of the Kazan detachment remained unknown [SAUR, f. R-200, in. 2, d. 903, sh. 12].

Under the Zavolzhsky District Committee of the Cartridge Plant, the first communist detachment appeared in September 1918. The size of the detachment was 325 people, and the organizer was Mikhailov. Immediately after the organization, the detachment was divided into three companies of 110 people each, and then joined the "Iron Division" [SACHUR, f. 57a, in. 2, d.454a, sh. 5]. Subsequently, in the implementation of the counter-offensive operation on the position of the White Guards, the fighters of the squad rendered considerable assistance.

The Simbirsk district party organization, which directly included village cells, began first of all to create an organizing bureau [Pashkin, 2012, p. 24]. In the spring of 1919, the bureau, in connection with the beginning of the advance of Kolchak's troops and the uprisings of rural residents in the Sengileyevsky, Karsunsky district units, as well as in rural settlements of the Simbirsk district, created a squadron of 100 soldiers [SACHUR, f. 1, in. 1, d.172, sh. 17]. Of these, one third were left in the local garrison at the Simbirsk district commissariat and two-thirds of the detachment were poured into the Simbirsk working regiment, with which they went to fight against Kolchak's military units [SACHUR, f. 7, in. 1, d.64, sh. 2].

A similar detachment of 200 people was formed in March 1919, under the command of Radko. The main objective of the detachment was the suppression of the

Usinsky uprising in the Syzran district. The detachment in an armed clash with the rebels inflicted several tangible losses, killed about 37 people and several wounded [Russian State Military Archive (RSMA), f. 58, in. 1, d. 1, sh. 21]. At the end of the uprising, the detachment was returned to Syzran and disbanded.

The process of organizing squads became widespread when on April 17, 1919 the regulatory act “On the creation of the SPU” was adopted, the main purpose of which was to assist the Soviet structures in curbing the counterrevolutionary threat [Naida, 1969, p. 110]. So, for the period from April 1919 to February 1922, 4 cases of formation of detachments in the Syzran and Alatyry counties were recorded in the province. Moreover, the units in numbers ranged from 110 to 2000 people [RSMA, f. 58, in. 1, d.20, sh. 37].

In the Simbirsk province, in February 1921 a battalion was organized under the Simbirsk organization, numbering 180 soldiers. Commander Ababkov was appointed commander of the battalion [SACHUR, f. 1, in. 1, d. 277, sh. 29]. In March 1921, the first special-purpose regiment was formed, as well as the Provincial operational headquarters led by the Provincial Commissar Belyaev and the regiment headquarters. For the formation of the headquarters was allocated 32 infantry courses. The headquarters was connected by telephone with party organizations [RSMA, f. 58, in. 1, d. 31, sh. 5]. At the same time, separate special-purpose companies were formed for the county administrative units into which the commanders were appointed: 22 Sengileevskaya company - Stafeev, 23 Syzranskaya - Shesterkin, 24 Karsunskaya - Matsarov, 25 Alatyrskaya - Nalenov, 26 Ardatovskaya -Terentyev and 27 Kurmyshskaya - Baranov [SACHUR, f. 57a, in. 2, d.454a, sh. 5].

The name "communist detachments" was abolished by order of the Western military district and Volga military district of September 26, 1921, and the term "Special purpose units" was introduced in its place. The commander in the province of SPU became known as province commander [RSMA, f. 58, in. 1, d.36, sh. 4].

### **3. Creation of SPU Soviets in the territory of the Simbirsk province**

In September 1921, orders were sent to the party structures of the administrative units of the state on the SPU Councils of the province and county. The provincial Council should include members of the Provincial Committee, province commander, a representative of the Provincial Commissariat and Provincial emergency commission, and the county - secretary of the committee, province commander of SPU, representatives of the Military Commissariat and the senior management of the provincial committee of a political party [RSMA, f. 58, in. 1, d.58, sh. 24].

The councils of special units in their position were a structure whose prerogative was to ensure close interaction between the SPU and party bodies, as well as civil and military authorities. It is their responsibility to develop measures to ensure the correct and regular service in the SPU, as well as to supply on a systematic basis with everything necessary, to assist the commander of the SPU and his Staff in the implementation of reliable accounting [SPU ..., 1921, p. 51]. To coordinate the activities of the party and the medical commission according to the sequence of appeals, make an opinion on controversial issues in this area in the order of appeals, and in case of a discrepancy with the party committee, the county council and the SPU Council of the province should send to the Council of the Republic for final decision [SAUR, f. R-200, in. 2, d. 907, sh. 17].

The organization of individual SPUs in the county administrative units of the Simbirsk province was committed on October 27, 1921 [SACHUR, f. 57a, in. 2, d. 215, sh. 31]. It is worth noting that there was virtually no organization of units from scratch, but there was a reorganization of the already functioning units according to the strictly established and approved staffs of the communist units in the SPU, which were available in almost all counties, but in their design and structure did not constitute an example of a properly organized military unit.

A normative document on special purpose units provided for the presence of military councils of the SPU in each provincial and district city with its own SPU. By order of the Simbirsk Provincial Committee of September 4, 1921, the Simbirsk Provincial Military Council was formed, which included: the chairman-counselor of the Simbirsk Provincial Committee of the CPSU - Meshcheryakov, a member of the Provincial Commissariat and the Nachotryad - Shiganov and the Chairman of the Simbirsk Provincial Commission - Khakharev [RSMA, f. 58, in. 1, d.96, sh. 6]. In the district administrative units of the Simbirsk province, on the basis of the decree of the Provincial Committee and the telegraphic order to all Ukoms and Komroths of September 25, 1921, No. 104, military district councils of the SPU were formed [SACHUR, f. 57a, in. 2, d. 274, sh. 4].

In Kurmysh County, the Council was formed as follows: chairman - executive secretary of the county provincial committee of the CPSU Shelov, members: chief of political bureau Danilov, county commissar - Jacobson and company commander Garanov. In Alatyr County, the chairman of the Military Council was the secretary of the county provincial committee of the CPSU Nesterov, and the members were: county commissar Derbenev, chief of political bureau Mironov and company commander Polenov. In Ardatov County, the chairman of the Military Council is the executive

secretary of the county provincial committee of the CPSU Mishin, members: chief of political bureau Korolev, county commissar Kopylov and a company commander of the village of Ardatovskaya Terentyev. In Karsunsky County: chairman - executive secretary of the county provincial committee of the CPSU - Marcinkowski, members: county commissar Isaenko, chief of political bureau - Obydenkov, company commander of the village of Karsunskaya Makarov. In the Sengeleevsky County, the chairman of the Military Council is executive secretary of the county provincial committee of the CPSU Uraltsev and members are: county commissar Semenov, chief of political bureau Yashi and company commander of the village of Sengileevskaya Stasev. The composition of the Syzrasniy County of the SPU included: executive secretary of the county provincial committee of the CPSU Rybochkin, members of the Syzranskaya company, county commissar Kozlov and chief of political bureau Pulz [SACHUR, f. 57a, in. 2, d.454a, sh. 6].

In the Simbirsk province, the formation of individual SPUs, as well as the activities in this direction of the Provincial Headquarters, can be described as insufficiently satisfactory. In many respects, according to the report of the Chief of the Provincial Headquarters Rudakov, such a real state of affairs was caused by a number of reasons: firstly, the significance of the states; secondly, the fact that many of those who filled the state did not have special training, party affiliation, did not quite meet their purpose; thirdly, the lack of such posts as the Head of the operational drill and registration and mobilization units [RSMA, f. 58, in. 1, d.96, sh. 10]. Along with this, the formed commission, carrying out the reception of personnel, horsemen, as well as property from the communist units of the All-Education did not give effective results and the calculations of the Provincial Headquarters in this direction did not materialize.

A similar state of affairs was recorded in reports that were systematically sent to the party organ by the company and battalion commanders formed in the district administrative units of the province of SPU. According to the report, the key attention in organizing special-purpose units was paid to filling the staff of the command and economic staff with the allotment of property laid down by the regulatory act [SACHUR, f. 1, in. 1, d. 305, sh. 13].

The process of forming personnel for individual SPUs in the Simbirsk province was finally completed as fixed by order on the organization of the SPU provinces on December 1, 1921 and the Headquarters of the SPU provinces on December 6, 1921 [SAUR, f. R-200, in. 2, d. 1149, sh. 6]. At this point, the campaign was completed to register members of the RCP (b), candidates and members of the Workers 'and Peasants'

Youth Union, passed through a special medical commission, in accordance with the main clause of the provision on special units.

Moreover, all candidates and members were divided into the corresponding draft lines, and the number of these lines was expressed in the following quantitative terms: the first stage - 1193 people, the second - 372, and the third - 274. A total of 1632 people were registered [RSMA, f. 58, in. 1, d.96, sh. 7]. In fairness, it should be borne in mind that these quantitative values were only for City organizations and were incomplete, since many were on business trips, sick leave, or declined to register. The data on county administrative units of the province were also not taken into account.

In this regard, it seems appropriate to consider the number of party organizations of the province, based on the information of the cells. In total, in the party organizations of the Simbirsk province, as of December 1921, there were 4,587 members of the RCP (b) (Fig. 1.).

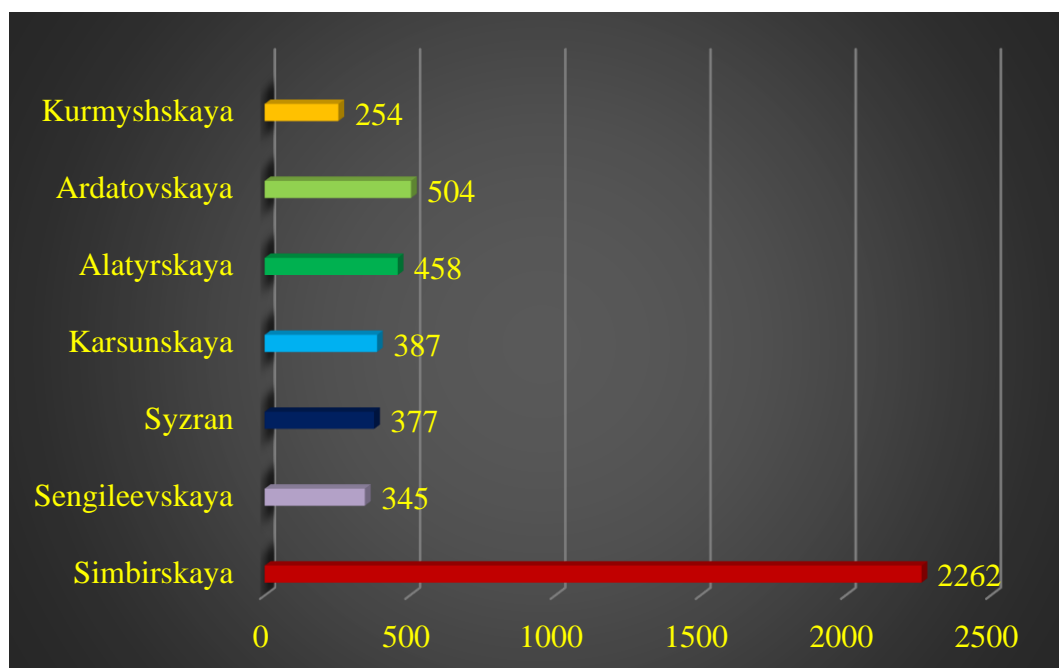


Fig. 1. The number of members of the CPSU (b) of the Simbirsk province as of December 1921.

In the Simbirsk province, on December 6, 1921, cardinal changes took place in the General Staff of the SPU. Shiganov was appointed the commander of Special purpose units, Ikonnikov replaced Rudakov's chief of staff, Arapov became the head of the operational drill department and Batin became the chief of the mobilization and accounting department, Pazukhin was the assistant to the chief, Alekseev - the headquarters commander of the SPU. January 2, 1922, the Commander of the SPU of the Simbirsk province Shiganov was replaced by V. G. Prutskov [SACHUR, f. 57a, in. 2, d.454a, sh. 8].

In general, the existence of SPU in the province according to the first developed states did not fully meet the criteria for the lifestyle of SPU. For this reason, on January 26, 1922, the order of the SPU of the province No. 4 was issued, based on the order of the SPU RVSR No. 52 of November 31, 1921 with the proposal of new states to reorganize the SPU into new states, which was charged to all special forces commanders to finish by February 1 1922 [RSMA, f. 58, in. 1, d. 114, sh. 59].

#### **4. Cover service of SPU the of Simbirsk province: organization and activity.**

In connection with the occurrence of White Guard preparations for counterrevolutionary resistance on all territories of the Volga region on March 29, 1922 in the execution of the order of SPU RSFSR No. 04025, order of SPU Volga Military District No. 08, as well as the order of Council special purpose parts of the province, all SPU Volga Military District, and in particular the Simbirsk province was put on alert. In particular, on March 30, 1922, in order to prevent possible speeches by the population of the SPU of the Simbirsk governorate, he issued order No. 021, which provides for the formation of combat units in each unit - cover from the Communards, who are registered in the SPU, not excluding military communists with barracks. The total number of cover soldiers amounted to 180 people. Among them: in the 7th military district battalion - 50 people, in the 22nd military district of the Ardatov company - 12 people, the 23th military district of the Alatyr company - 18 people, in the 24th military district of the Sengiley company - 30 people, in the 20th military district of the Syzran company - 30 people, in the 21st military district of the Karsun company - 15 people and in the 54th military district of the Kurmysh platoon - 25 people [RSMA, f. 58, in. 1, d. 114, sh. 57].

The nature of the activities of the cover and the need for their existence depended directly on the political situation in each specific county administrative unit of the Simbirsk province. The cadets of the party school or communards of the city organization of the closest district from the headquarters of the SPU were enlisted. The commune of cover-ups were not released from their daily duties and served from the onset of darkness until the morning [SAUR, f. R-200, in. 2, d. 1149, sh. 19].

Cover-ups were mobilized during the start of the campaign to seize church property for intelligence and sentinel services around the city. Checking the combat readiness of cover platoons was carried out on a systematic basis, by organizing false alarms based on conditional signals.

In the village of Zhdamerkin, Alatyr district, on May 10, 1922, the chairman and members of the commission for the seizure of church property were beaten by local



residents. In order to suppress the impending uprising at the Alatyry company, a detachment of 70 Communards was formed, which was immediately sent to the scene of the incident. When carrying out a raid on the perpetrators, they provided armed resistance, which was suppressed by cover soldiers. There were no victims from either side. As a result of the special operation, 52 people were arrested and transferred to the disposal of the Simbirsk provincial administration of the Main political administration [SACHUR, f. 57a, in. 2, d. 436, sh. 10]. After the liquidation of the uprising, the communards of the cover were disbanded to their homes.

A cover detachment of 30 fighters was also organized in Sengilei. During the campaign for the expropriation of church values, posts of cover soldiers were put up at the postal and telegraph office, telephone exchange, county executive committee, and county financial department. This measure has allowed a successful campaign. Upon completion of the expropriation commission, the platoon was removed from the barracks. The seized church values were escorted by fighters of 21 military units of the Simbirsk company to Moscow, as a result of which 6 Red Army men received thanks [SACHUR, f. 57a, in. 2, d.454, sh. 4].

With the improvement of the political situation in the counties, the need for the presence of coverings disappeared, and they were subject to liquidation. So, at the 7th regiment of the Simbirsk battalion, the cover was dismissed on April 14, the 21st regiment of the Karsun company on August 11, the 22nd regiment of the Ardatov company on August 11th, the 23rd regiment of the Alatyry company on August 19th and the 24th regiment of the Sengileevskaya company - November 8 [SAUR, f. R-200, in. 2, d. 1287, sh. 19].

## **5. Organizational activities of the SPU of the Simbirsk province in 1922.**

On November 11, 1922, the “Regulation on the SPU” was amended, namely, the paragraph on the compilation of the appeal lines. So, according to the changes: first communards from 17 to 45 years old were enrolled, in the second - from 45 to 50 years old, in the third - over 50 years old. In November 1922, in the Simbirsk province, under a new provision for special purposes, they were assigned to the post of commanders - Popov, Polozov, Shcherbakov, and the squad - Bezin and inspector Shtachongub Padris-Karastilevsky. In total, in the province there were 5 main and 3 letter SPU. At the same time, the main companies consisted of 19 leading specialists, and in the platoon 12, with the required 18. There were 4 people in two letter companies, 30 in the administration of

the headquarters of the province with the required 42 [SACHUR, f. 1, in. 1, d. 458, sh. 27].

The selection of personnel was carried out mainly by the certification procedure. In December 1922, 6 members of the command staff from other provinces arrived. In the Simbirsk province, in parts of the SPU, the number of militia personnel enrolled in the first draft was 3258 (78, 1%), the second 342 (8, 2%), and the third 569 (13, 7%). A more detailed idea of the militia can be obtained from table 1 (table. 1).

**Table 1.**

Description of the composition of the SPU of the Simbirsk province for December 1922.

Call line	1 rank of military unit	2 category of military unit	3 category of military unit	militia and administrative staff
First	320	1065	1663	210
Second	111	111	75	45
Third	152	278	118	21

\* Source: SACHUR, f. 1, in. 1, d. 458, sh. 35; F. 57a, in. 2, d.454a, sh. 17-23.

In general, in 1922, the replenishment of special units was carried out under pressure from party structures, and material support and the work of popularizing the service among the Communards were at a low level. Reforming into smaller units of some special units and even one numbering, led to the fact that in December 1922 at the Simbirsk Party Committee at meetings often raised the question of the need to eliminate the SPU due to its lack of staffing, as well as its uselessness in the “game in soldiers” [SACHUR, f. 1, in. 1, d. 458, sh. 31]. The secretaries of the party structures did not have a clear idea of the tasks and structure of the SPU, which is why the district committees sometimes managed the cadres without notifying the provincial command.

## **6. Military training in special units of the Simbirsk province in 1922 - 1923**

In Simbirsk province, training camps for special units were regularly held, the main purpose of which was to increase the level of military skills of the Communards. The first training camp was held in the SPU province from March 15 to April 22, 1922. The mastery of military skill was carried out by the barracks order, in connection with which the Communards who were at their posts were temporarily removed from them for the passage of the program. In general, it was noted for extremely low results. So, by the

beginning of the gathering in the 10th military unit of the Simbirsk battalion, 86 people had arrived, which amounted to 35,5% of the planned number - 242. All the Communards were divided into two groups: the first - not having completed military service before and the second - poorly trained. After the Communards passed the seven-day program, which ended with firing with a reduced charge, the first group achieved the result - 40% of hits on targets [SACHUR, f. 57a, in. 2, d.454a, sh. 11]. The second group, in the amount of 27 people, completed training on March 29 ahead of schedule, as it turned out to be completely unruly. In addition, in the Simbirsk province, summer gatherings were also held, at which low results were also achieved. In this regard, with the participation of party structures, the issue of providing food for the fighters of SPU was resolved, appropriate adjustments were made to the training program and the dates of their implementation [SAUR, f. R-200, in. 2, d. 1304, sh. 14].

In the spring of 1923 tactical training was organized for the communards in some SPU district administrative units of the Simbirsk province, which since October 1923 became widespread and began to be carried out in all special purpose units. Under the management of the SPU of Simbirsk province, re-courses were organized. The courses functioned from September 15 to December 20, 1923 [SACHUR, f. 1, in. 1, d. 638, sh. 33]. In the training of command personnel, attention was concentrated on the study of group tactics, topography, and military-chemical affairs. At the same time as the personnel officers, the communards of schools in the city of Simbirsk – working faculty, provincial Soviet-party school, school of the CPSU (b), school named after K. Marx [SAUR, f. R-200, in. 2, d. 1287, sh. 13]. All classes of the Communards took place in 80 and 120 hour programs. Of the key subjects, the gradation in the development time was as follows: shooting - 14 hours, formation - 22 hours, field training - 14 hours. The remaining hours went to charters and tactical exercises. In total, in the SPU of the Simbirsk province, the 80-hour program was mastered: the Simbirsk battalion - 2772 people, the Sengiley company - 298 people, the Karsun company - 238 people, the Ardatov company - 679, the Alatyr company - 186 people. In addition to general training, the communard in the province's SPU received training for machine gunners – 139, grenadiers – 48, field observers and eye-watchers – 31 [SACHUR, f. 57a, in. 2, d.454a, sh. 17].

## **7. Reformation of the SPU of Simbirsk province**

By the winter of 1923 there was an improvement in political realities in the territory of the RSFSR, namely, the power of the Bolsheviki was directly consolidated

and the centers of counter-revolutionary resistance were finally suppressed. In the Simbirsk province, according to the reports of the Simbirsk Provincial Directorate of the Main Political Directorate sent to the party committee in the fall and winter of 1923, there were no mass revolts of a counter-revolutionary orientation [SACHUR, f. 1, in. 1, d. 638, sh. 29]. At this time, the key tasks for the fighters of special forces were to ensure the safety of objects of national importance, bullet points and the fight against gangs. Due to the stabilization of the situation in the country, the head of the Moscow Military District N. I. Muralov put forward the question of the need to preserve parts of the SPU. In a telegram to Secretary General I.V. Stalin, the commander emphasized that maintaining the special forces in the current state is unprofitable due to the following reasons: firstly, the prerogative of the SPU is the transfer of the basics of military affairs to party members and All-Union Lenin communist youth league members, which requires a significant amount of systematic resources, and the final learning outcome is extremely low; and secondly, the existence of combat-ready combat units of the Red Army in the administrative units of the state is sufficient to ensure security [Hovhannisyan, 2001, p. 191].

On March 28, 1924, the organizational bureau of the CPSU (b) made a decision to merge into the territorial units, and if, where in administrative units such parts were absent, only the SPU department was liquidated, and the units themselves were preserved and transferred to the military commissariats [SACHUR, f. 57a, in. 2, d.454a, sh. 31].

The need for the disbandment of the SPU in the Ulyanovsk province was also aggravated by the food crisis that was virtually impossible to level with solely punitive measures, since a large proportion of the supporters of the RCP (b) party were rural poor and expressed clear sympathy for the starving.

In April 1924, on the basis of the order of SPU PRIVO No. 213, which entered the administration, the reorganization of special forces throughout the Ulyanovsk province began. According to the main provisions of the reorganization plan, it was envisaged to administer the headquarters of the SPU of the province and the 334th regiment of the Ulyanovsk battalion to pour into the 2nd rifle regiment in Ulyanovsk, and the 401th regiment of the Syzran company - into the 101st rifle regiment. In addition, it was planned to subordinate and send 402 military units of Sengileevskaya, 403 military units of Karsunskaya, 403 military units of Ardatovskaya and 404 military units of Alaty companies through local military registration and enlistment offices. Initially, the reorganization was planned to be completed by May 15, 1924. However, due to training

fees, as well as problems with accounting records, the reorganization campaign could not be completed within the designated time period [SAUR, f. R-200, in. 2, d. 1315, sh. 7].

On June 23, 1924, the Office of the Headquarters of the SPU Province and 334 military unit of the Ulyanovsk Battalion, 401 military unit of the Syzran Company, on the basis of order No. 3/20021 Volga Military District were forcibly reorganized. The personnel of the disbanded 334th regiment of the Ulyanovsk battalion was transferred to the 2nd Infantry Regiment, and 401th regiment of the Syzran Company to the 101st Infantry Syzran Regiment for appointment to the permanent composition [SACHUR, f. 57a, in. 2, d.454a, sh. 32].

In order to liquidate the disbanded Office of the Headquarters of the SPU of the province and 334 military base of the Ulyanovsk battalion, the provincial Liquidation Commission was created by order No. 37/37, consisting of the chief of staff Ikonnikov, the chief of the battalion Sidorov, the arms of Novikov and the representative of the city committee Yakovlev [SAUR, f. R-200, in. 2, d. 1356, sh. 16]. A similar commission was appointed in 401 military units of Syzran company. Its structure included: assistant company commander Kruglov and clerk Pobedonostsev. The work of these commissions ended on July 1, 1924 [SACHUR, f. 57a, in. 2, d.454a, sh. 33].

It seems advisable to note that 400 military units of Sengiley company also underwent disbandment. According to the provision of the original plan, this company had to be preserved and transferred to the local military registration and enlistment office. However, due to the liquidation of the Sengiley company and the abolition of the military registration and enlistment office there, the company was disbanded on June 28, 1924 [SAUR, f. R-200, in. 2, d. 1457, sh. 45].

In Simbirsk province, the reformation of the SPU units was finally completed on July 1, 1924, when 402 military units of Karsunskaya, 403 military units of Ardatovskaya and 404 military units of Alatyr company were transferred to the lines of their district military registration and enlistment offices directly reporting to the Ulyanovsk military commissariat [SACHUR, f. 57a, in. 2, d.454a, sh. 34].

## **8. Conclusion.**

The process of organizing special units of the Simbirsk province, in general, was carried out in accordance with the trends prevailing in the Soviet state, but nevertheless, it also had its own characteristic features, directly related both to the geographical position of the administrative unit and to socio-economic and political realities. The key reason for the formation of the first communist detachments in the counties of the province was

the chaotic emergence of local counter-revolutionary rebellions of rural citizens. After eliminating the threat, the squads were disbanded. Finally, the special units that operated on a permanent basis in the Simbirsk province were organized only in the spring of 1921.

Raising the level of military training of the Communards was the main prerogative of the special forces of the Simbirsk province. In order to solve this problem, courses were systematically organized and summer and spring training sessions were held. The existing training system, on the whole, brought a satisfactory result - special-purpose units received fighters with a minimum level of knowledge of military affairs and capable of completing a tactical task. However, the training system also had its drawbacks. Firstly, the Communards often at any time tear themselves away from passing fees on orders from party structures to carry out assignments of a different nature. Secondly, in special units there was an acute shortage of shoes, food, clothing, as well as facilities for organizing training sessions. In aggregate, these factors worsened the quality of training and did not have the best effect on the combat readiness of the fighters of SPU.

Thus, the existence of special units, which included ideological supporters of the RCP (b) party, was extremely important for the Soviet government in the Simbirsk province. A significant contribution to the preservation and strengthening of the Bolshevik regime was a tangible contribution to the preservation of Soviet power in its fight against counter-revolution and banditry, SPU made directly during the Civil War.

#### **Sources and Accepted Abbreviations**

1. SACHUR – State Archive of the Contemporary History of the Ulyanovsk Region. F. 1. In. 1. D. 44. SH. 31. D. 172. SH. 17. D. 214. Sh. 11 – 13. D. 277. L. 29. D. 305. SH. 13. D. 458. SH. 27–31. D. 638. SH. 29; F. 7. In. 1. D. 64. SH. 2; F. 57a. In. 2. D. 274. SH. 4. D. 436. SH. 10. D. 454. SH. 4. D. 454a. LL 5 to 34.
2. SAUR – State Archive of the Ulyanovsk Region. F. P– 200. In. 1. D. 31. SH. 5. In. 2. D. 903. SH. 12. D. 907. SH. 17. D. 1149. SH. 6 –19. D. 1287. SH. 19. D. 1304. SH. 14. D. 1315. SH. 7. D. 1356. SH. 16. D. 1457. SH. 45.
3. RSMA - Russian State Military Archive. F. 58. In. 1. D. 1. SH. 21. D. 20. SH. 37. D. 31. SH. 5. D. 36. SH. 4. D. 96. SH. 7 – 10. D. 114. SH. 57 – 59.

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