

Professional training of police officers in the territory of the Middle Volga region of the USSR in the pre-war period (1938-1941).

Formación profesional de agentes de policía en el territorio de la región del Volga Medio de la URSS en el período anterior a la guerra (1938-1941)

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Annotation. The article presents the results of studying the problem of providing police personnel on the basis of the analysis of archival documents. After the curtailment of the policy of repression of 1937-1938 and the release from the duties of the People's Commissar of Internal Affairs of the USSR Nikolai Yezhov, the police bodies were purged and the subsequent personnel audit revealed a significant number of employees who did not have a professional education. To solve this problem, a comprehensive system of training and retraining of personnel was formed. Ordinary police officers could get all the necessary knowledge through the system of internal course training, which was carried out by the most experienced employees of the units where they served. The average senior staff needed long-term training in special disciplines, including legal and economic ones. The reorganization of inter-regional police schools helped to solve this problem. In the article, the author examines in detail the activities of the Kuibyshev Inter-regional police School, which trained police officers in the Middle Volga region.

Key words: People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs of the USSR (PCIA), police, criminal crime, vocational training, Middle Volga region.

1. Introduction.

On November 17, 1938, the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR and the Central Committee of the CPSU(b) adopted a resolution "On arrests, prosecutor's supervision and investigation". The resolution stated the presence of excesses made by the state security and public order bodies when identifying "enemies of the people", and also foreshadowed significant personnel changes in these organizations.² The resolution changed the algorithm of detaining criminals, predetermined the competent preparation of all necessary documents, including materials of the preliminary investigation, as well as the documentation of the arrest.³ On June 29, 1939, People's Commissar of Justice of the RSFSR Y. Dmitriev informed the SNK of the USSR that due to poor and illiterate registration of criminal cases, due to lack of knowledge of criminal legislation and investigative skills, up to 30% of criminal cases investigated by the PCIA bodies end in acquittals of the court, or cases are terminated by prosecutors

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² Lubyanka. Stalin and the Main Directorate of State Security of the PCIA. 1937-1938. pp. 607-611

³ SARF. F. R-9401. In. 1. F. 1. Sh. 3

due to the lack of corpus delicti.⁴ Thus, the majority of the average command staff of the police needed professional training or retraining.

Changes in the system of professional education of police officers were also associated with the change of heads of internal affairs bodies. In October 1938, Nikolai Yezhov, People's Commissar of Internal Affairs of the USSR, was dismissed from his post. His post was taken by Lavrenty Beria. Despite the fact that in modern historiography, Beria is positioned by most scientists as the main person of repression, in fact, this was not the case. Beria initiated the rehabilitation of illegally convicted persons under political articles of the Criminal Code of the USSR in 1937-1938, as well as numerous amnesties of prisoners who committed minor crimes. He also carried out a personnel purge of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs, excluding from them those who were somehow involved in lawlessness. New, professionally trained people were needed for the vacant places. Higher educational institutions could not solve this problem, since up to 60% of higher educational institutions had a pedagogical orientation, and the course of administrative and criminal law was not included in the curriculum. Institutions of secondary and primary vocational education also did not train specialists in the field of law. The way out of such a difficult situation was found in the reorganization of the police schools of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs. They trained the average command staff for the law enforcement, state security and investigation services.

The Kuibyshev inter-regional police school trained officers of the middle command staff for the police of the Kuibyshev and Penza regions, the Mordovian and Chuvash ASSR, as well as for the Ural and West Siberian districts. In Russian historiography, the problem of training police personnel in the late 1930s has been studied in great detail by researchers. Based on the analysis of unique archival documents, Y. Pavlov⁵, V. Ivanov⁶, V. Khaustov⁷, T. Nadkin⁸, V. Kolemasov⁹, created

⁴ SARF. F. R-8131. In. 37. F. 144. Sh. 67

⁵ PAVLOV Y. A. The genesis of professional training of personnel in police educational institutions in the 30s-40s of the twentieth century // The world of science, culture, and education. 2014. No. 3(36). pp. 55-57

⁶ IVANOV V. A. Problems of special and general education training of personnel of the Mari regional militia in the 1930s. // Integration of education, science and culture. 2005. No. 1-2. pp. 122-128

⁷ KHAUSTOV V. N. Changes in the internal political situation of the Soviet Union and their impact on the organizational structure of the PCIA of the USSR in the 1930s // Political History of Russia: past and present. Materials of the XVI annual All-Russian readings. Saint Petersburg: Lyubavich Printing House, 2019. pp. 278-288

⁸ NADKIN T. D. The problem of providing personnel for internal affairs bodies of Mordovia in the 1930s // The proceedings of Penza State University named after V. G. Belinsky. 2012. No. 27. pp. 845-850

their scientific works. However, the Kuibyshev inter-regional police school has never been the object of scientific research until today.

The research was based on archival materials stored in the State Archive of the Russian Federation, as well as on the materials of two regional archives of the Middle Volga region – the Samara Regional State Archive of Socio-Political History and the State Archive of the Contemporary History of the Ulyanovsk Region. Both regional archives are former archives of the Kuibyshev and Ulyanovsk regional committees of the CPSU(b). Thus, the materials of the funds of the Kuibyshev regional Committee of the CPSU(b) (SRSASPH, F. 656), the Ulyanovsk city Committee of the CPSU(b) (SACHUR, F. 13), the Ulyanovsk regional Committee of the CPSU(b) (SACHUR F. 8). Documents from these funds were previously classified as "secret" and were inaccessible to researchers. At the same time, they contain extremely interesting information that allows us to fully study the system of personnel training for the PCIA bodies in the pre-war years.

2. The state of personnel and training of police officers in the Middle Volga region

In December 1938, the structure of the PCIA was revised. To strengthen the investigative work in the central office of the commissariat, a separate investigative unit was created. Similar changes occurred in the regional departments of the PCIA. As a result, all investigative workers who made up less than 16% of the total officer staff were removed from departments, including the police.¹⁰ Similar actions were carried out in all regional, city and district departments of the PCIA.

On April 5, 1940, the reform of all educational institutions of the police was carried out. The Central School, which was the only one, began to prepare the senior commanding staff of the police. Inter-regional police schools with a two-year training period prepared the average commanding and political staff. In total, there were 20 such schools on the territory of the USSR. For periodic training, six-month training courses for police commanders were established, which provided for various training programs for command, political, scientific and technical personnel.¹¹

⁹ KOLEMASOV V. N. Organization of work of the Penza police in 1939-1941 // Science. Society. State. 2019. No. 1 (25). pp. 5-11

¹⁰ KHAUSTOV V. N. Changes in the internal political situation of the Soviet Union and their impact on the organizational structure of the PCIA of the USSR in the 1930s. pp. 284 – 285

¹¹ SARF. F. R-2409. In. 12. F. 345. Sh. 399

By the end of the 1930s, the number of tasks facing the police increased. Therefore, the inter-regional police schools carried out the training of specialists of the commanding staff: district and operational commissioners, heads of city and district departments and divisions. The age of those who were admitted to police schools ranged from 22 to 35 years. To enter the schools, it was required to successfully pass three entrance exams, and have a general education level of at least 6 classes of a general education school.¹²

At the same time, in April 1940, the central office of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs conducted an analysis, finding that a fairly small number of people who previously served in ordinary positions come to police schools. Therefore, the age for persons who previously served in the police was increased to 40 years, and the Constitution of the USSR and the Russian language were left among the disciplines of the entrance exams. In addition, the mandatory level of education – 6 classes of secondary school, was changed to 5 classes of secondary school.¹³

Inter-regional schools were available only in large regions of the country, and trained personnel for several neighboring regions. Thus, the majority of the command staff of the police of the Mari ASSR were trained at the Gorky inter-regional police school. Nevertheless, 61 people had higher and secondary education of the commanding staff in 1940 in the Mari ASSR, 64 people in the pre – war 1941, which was 24.8%. The majority of the commanding police officers received higher education in civilian higher educational institutions, in particular, in the Mari State Pedagogical Institute. Specialists with higher legal education in the Middle Volga region were trained by Kazan State University. However, graduates of this educational institution did not come to work in the police, preferring the profession of a prosecutor or a judge. Especially interesting is the statistics of the state of police personnel in the Mari ASSR as of the first half of 1941. For example, 10 people from the personnel of the republican Department of the PCIA graduated from the Central Police School, 26 inter – regional police schools, 12 advanced training courses for police officers. At the same time, 58 people graduated from the schools and courses of the Workers 'and Peasants' Red Army.¹⁴ Thus, most of

¹² PAVLOV Y. A. The genesis of professional training of personnel in police educational institutions in the 30s-40s of the twentieth century. p. 56

¹³ SARF. F. R-9401. In. 12. F. 345. Sh. 364

¹⁴ IVANOV V.A. Problems of special and general education training of personnel of the Mari regional militia in the 1930s. pp. 124, 128

the police personnel did not actually have special training, and before entering the internal affairs bodies they served in junior command positions in the Red Army.

Personnel for the police of the Mordovian ASSR were prepared by the Kuibyshev inter-regional police school. Of the 150 places, 30 were reserved for applicants from Mordovia. Another 19 places were provided in the Saratov inter-regional police School. Much attention was also paid to internal training, which was conducted in the departments and police departments by the most experienced employees. Political studies were significant in terms of the volume of internal studies. For example, in the PCIA Department of the Mordovian ASSR, evening classes were held from 20 pm to 2 am, despite the fact that the working day began at 10.00 and lasted until 20.00.¹⁵

As of the beginning of 1940, out of 1021 police officers of the Penza Region, 6 people had higher education, 108 had secondary education. Given that the Penza Region was formed in 1939, the training of the average command staff was carried out in the Novo-Cherkassy inter-regional police school, located in the Rostov region.¹⁶ There was also a significant shortage of trained personnel in the police of the Kuibyshev region. The internal training system has also gained wide popularity here. At the same time, the Kuibyshev inter-regional police school trained up to 150 people for the region annually. If by the beginning of 1938 less than 23% of the commanding staff had special education, by June 1941 up to 30% of the entire commanding staff of the militia had special education.¹⁷

3. The activities of the Kuibyshev inter-regional police school for the training of the commanding staff of the PCIA

In the territory of the Middle Volga region in the pre-war years, the Kuibyshev inter-regional police School prepared middle and junior officers for the internal affairs bodies. The training period was two years. In total, from 240 to 250 people studied at the school. The majority of the cadets were men – 187 people. The school accepted both ordinary police officers and those who had not previously served in the internal affairs bodies. For cadets who had not previously served, the amount of the scholarship was 325 rubles, for those who were on duty, the scholarship was established in accordance

¹⁵ NADKIN T. D. The problem of providing personnel for internal affairs bodies of Mordovia in the 1930s. p. 849.

¹⁶ KOLEMASOV V. N. Organization of work of the Penza police in 1939-1941. p. 6

¹⁷ SRSASPH. F. 656. In. 19. F. 1. Sh. 183

with the amount of salary at the previous place of work, but not less than 325 rubles.¹⁸ This amount was insignificant, but it allowed us to provide not only for the cadet himself, but also for his family. So, the average cost of 1 kg of meat ranged from 2 to 3 rubles, bread-up to 1 ruble, 1 liter of milk - up to 1.5 rubles.¹⁹

All those who graduated from school were awarded the special title of "police sergeant", and those who graduated from school with excellent performance were awarded the special title of "junior lieutenant of the police". The cadets of the school studied socio-economic, special, military and social disciplines. The school staff was tasked to provide full-fledged police officers who should be politically literate, well-versed in the knowledge of police affairs and cultural police chiefs who are able to perform tasks of the CPSU(b) and the government.

3.1 Teaching and administrative staff of the school

The teaching and management staff of the school consisted of 30 people. Of these, 16 were members of the CPSU(b), 5 were candidates for membership of the CPSU(b), 1 was a member of the Komsomol, 8 were non – partisan. Thus, most of the workers were communists. All the full-time teaching staff, with the exception of two teachers in police disciplines, had a higher professional education. Also, most of the teachers had at least three years of work experience.²⁰

The most experienced teachers were A. Veshanov and G. Antimonov. Veshanov was the deputy director of the school and the head of the training and drill department. He began working in the police since 1921, and began teaching at the school in 1933. Antimonov worked as the head of the political department of the school. He had 5 years of work experience in the Kuibyshev Regional Committee of the CPSU (b) and 7 years of teaching experience.²¹

By the decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR of June 26, 1940, changes were made to the amount of hours that teachers needed to work. So, if before the Decree was issued, the annual load rate was 230 hours, then after the publication – 600 hours. Naturally, the teachers did not have the opportunity to conduct such a significant number of classes. The result of this was a slight decrease in the salaries of the teaching staff of the school. On the other hand, they were quite large, and

¹⁸ SRSASPH. F. 656. In. 19. F. 28. Sh. 163

¹⁹ OSOKINA E. A. Behind the facade of "Stalin's abundance": Distribution and market in the supply of the population during the years of industrialization. 1927-1941. p. 255

²⁰ SRSASPH. F. 656. In. 19. F. 28. Sh. 158

²¹ SRSASPH. F. 656. In. 19. F. 28. Sh. 168, 169

exceeded the wages of skilled workers at industrial enterprises of the region, reaching the mark of 500-700 rubles.²²

In addition, a significant dissatisfaction of the teaching staff was caused by the system of work of special stores to which they were attached. Every year, in January – February 1939, 1940 and 1941, there were certain interruptions in the supply. Teachers were attached to the shops of a special auction on the basis of the order of the Deputy People's Commissar of Internal Affairs of the USSR. The school administration was always late with the paperwork, so during the first months of the year, teachers were forced to buy food at market prices, and they were significantly different from the state ones. For example, 1 kg of potatoes instead of 4 kopecks cost teachers 40 kopecks, 1 kg of cabbage instead of 19 kopecks – 50 kopecks. It was impossible to solve this problem due to the extreme bureaucratization of the process. Thus, the head of the school, without the knowledge of the central office of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs, had no right to hire or dismiss a teacher.²³

On the other hand, teachers and their families were provided with state apartments, were attached to the school canteen, where they could buy lunches, and also received free uniforms and shoes.

3.2 The educational process

During the two years of training, the cadets of the school passed a fairly large amount of discipline. The entire program was made up of disciplines that provided the necessary knowledge for high-quality work on crime prevention. In addition, among the duties of policemen, in addition to combating criminal crime, there were functions of registration at the place of residence, monitoring compliance with the passport regime (in the late 1930s-early 1940s, only residents of cities had passports; peasants-collective farmers and sole proprietors, for staying in cities, received special permits from the boards of collective farms or from the chairmen of village councils. Leaving the village without such a certificate was an administrative offense, and if the act was committed repeatedly, it could cause criminal prosecution), fire protection. Also, most of the police officers, especially in rural areas, were engaged in agitation and propaganda, held conversations, meetings with the population, read reports. Often, the topic was not

²² SRSASPH. F. 656. In. 19. F. 28. Sh. 161

²³ SRSASPH. F. 656. In. 19. F. 28. Sh. 161

countering criminal crime, but political tasks that were set by the Central Committee of the CPSU(b).²⁴

The two-year course of study consisted of the following disciplines: Russian language and Russian literature – 300 hours, mathematics-200 hours, geography – 160 hours, the history of the USSR – 180 hours, the basics of Marxism-Leninism-300 hours, Soviet state law-80 hours, Soviet administrative law – 250 hours, Soviet criminal law-140 hours, criminal trial – 140 hours, criminalistics – 140 hours, operational investigative work – 160 hours, the basics of forensic medicine – 50 hours, accounting expertise – 30 hours, the basics of air defense and chemical defense-40 hours, first aid – 20 hours, hand-to-hand combat – 30 hours, general physical training – 120 hours, drill training – 60 hours, firearms training – 130 hours, topography – 60 hours, modern combat tactics – 150 hours. Thus, upon graduation, a graduate could work both in operational work and manage a separate territorial structural subdivision of the police, as well as perform the duties of a district commissioner – a special police officer who ensures compliance with the rule of law in city blocks or in certain rural areas covering up to 10 – 15 settlements and villages. The study of administrative and state law was also extremely important, since often the district commissioner was the only representative of the authorities in rural areas to whom local residents turned for legal advice.²⁵

The cadets of the school demonstrated an increase in academic performance in political, special, physical and combat training. If there were 62% of cadets who graduated with "excellent" and "good" in 1938, then in 1939 – 80%, in 1940 – 79%, including 45% of the cadet staff graduated from school with "excellent". At the same time, at least 5% of cadets received "unsatisfactory" grades. However, most of them did not have time not in special, but in general education subjects: in the Russian language and mathematics, which was explained by the weak general education training received in civilian schools. On the other hand, the level of knowledge of the cadets was quite high. So, out of 242 people in two or more subjects, only 16 cadets had poor grades.²⁶

The barracks position, where most of the cadets were, contributed to good discipline and attendance of classes. Thus, for the period from September 1, 1940 to

²⁴ SRSASPH. F. 656. In. 19. F. 28. Sh. 157

²⁵ SRSASPH. F. 656. In. 19. F. 28. Sh. 168

²⁶ SRSASPH. F. 656. In. 19. F. 28. Sh. 166

April 1, 1941, according to the curriculum, all 9,802 hours of classes were held, while in the 1938/1939 academic year, cadets missed 48 hours of classes.²⁷

3.3 The educational process

For the good service and drill training shown at the parades of the revolutionary holidays on the anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution and the International Holiday of May 1, the cadets and teaching staff of the school in 1939 and 1940 received gratitude from the head of the Kuibyshev garrison of the Red Army troops and from the Kuibyshev Regional Executive Committee. In addition, the school has repeatedly received awards from the Police Department of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs of the USSR. For example, during the period from September 1, 1940 to April 1, 1941 the cadet and teaching staff of the school had 119 incentives from the higher command for excellent studies, impeccable service and great public work.²⁸

The political and moral state of the school's cadets was mostly positive. This is confirmed by a rather characteristic case: when in 1940 it was announced that the Red Army was accepting volunteers for the Finnish front, all the cadets and teachers of the school wrote applications with a request to send them to the front of military operations. But, since only a few people were required from the school, 30 cadets voluntarily left for the Finnish front.²⁹

However, some teachers and cadets committed misconduct. Quite a large number of violations were registered among the cadets. Since they did not pass military service in the army, they were not familiar with the norms of military discipline. Nevertheless, the school's management was lenient towards minor violations, preferring to replace disciplinary penalties with educational conversations. The party organization of the school was concerned about another problem. After the admission of women to the school in 1938, the number of cases of divorce among cadets who had families increased. Therefore, cadets who had families were periodically gathered for preventive conversations, in which they discussed the important role of preserving the family and respecting family values.³⁰

According to the data given in the table, the most widespread violations among the cadets were late from dismissal. The cadets were in the barracks position, and they

²⁷ SRSASPH. F. 656. In. 19. F. 28. Sh. 160

²⁸ SRSASPH. F. 656. In. 19. F. 28. Sh. 157

²⁹ SRSASPH. F. 656. In. 19. F. 28. Sh. 159

³⁰ SRSASPH. F. 656. In. 19. F. 28. Sh. 160

were given a leave of absence to go beyond it. The discharge indicated the exact time by which the cadet was supposed to return to the location of the school. The reasons for the delays were different. So, cadet V., having received a leave from 14.00 to 19.00 20 November 1940, he returned to the location of the school at 21.40. He explained his lateness by the fact that he did not have a wristwatch. Cadet S. On December 7, 1941, was 29 minutes late from his discharge, as he was delayed at the performance of the Kuibyshev Drama Theater. However, all of the above types of violations were not criminal offenses. So, for the period from 1938 to 1941, the cadets did not commit a single theft, hooliganism or fraud. Every year, the school was subjected to at least 8 inspections of the Kuibyshev regional department of the PCIA, as well as the central apparatus of the PCIA of the USSR. None of the inspections during the years of the school's existence revealed any cases of official crimes committed by the school's managers and teachers.³¹

Table 1.

Disciplinary violations committed by cadets of the Kuibyshev inter-regional police School for the period from September 1, 1940 to April 1, 1941³²

| Types of violations | The number of violations committed by the cadet staff | The number of violations committed by the teaching and management staff |
|---|---|---|
| Being late from dismissal | 18 | - |
| Bickering with the school's command staff | 12 | - |
| Appearance at school drunk | 4 | - |
| Violation of the Decree of June 26, 1940 | - | 2 |
| Rude attitude to the cadets | - | 1 |
| Negligent attitude to official duties | 4 | 5 |
| Negligent attitude to school | 2 | - |

³¹ SRSASPH. F. 656. In. 19. F. 28. Sh.163³² SRSASPH. F. 656. In. 19. F. 28. Sh.162

| | | |
|---|----|----|
| property | | |
| Illegal use of cars belonging to the school | - | 1 |
| Failure to appear on duty | - | 2 |
| Unauthorized absence from school | 1 | 0 |
| Total violations committed | 41 | 11 |

3.4 Combat and physical training of cadets

The PCIA bodies had a network of corporate sports clubs, which were called "DYNAMO". Membership in it was mandatory for cadets. Physical training was carried out according to the programs of military training of the population, called the complex "Ready for work and defense" (hereinafter TRP). The TRP complex had two stages. Persons who fulfilled the standards of the first stage were awarded a silver badge. To do this, the applicant had to run a 3 km cross-country in 11 minutes and 30 seconds, make a 4 m long jump, throw a grenade weighing 700 gr. at a distance of 35 m., pass a ski cross with a distance of 5 km in 30 minutes, and also score 60 points when shooting from a combat rifle at a distance of 100 m. A gold badge was provided for the achievement of sports indicators of the second stage, which were 10 – 15% higher than the first one. So, in 1939, 100% of the cadet staff of the school passed the standards for obtaining the badge of the first stage of the TRP. Also in 1940, all cadets fulfilled the standards of the badge of the first stage of the TRP. At the same time, 29% of cadets fulfilled the standards of the second stage in 1939, and 32% in 1940. The cadets did not have time to pass the TRP standards in 1941, however, they fully mastered the winter sports included in the TRP complex. So, in January – February 1941, the standards of the first stage in cross-country skiing were fulfilled by 100% of cadets, the standards of the second stage-45%.³³

Combat training consisted of improving the accuracy of shooting from personal weapons. For the average officers of the PCIA in the pre-war years, the service weapon was a revolver "Nagan". All shooting training classes at the school were conducted with the use of this particular pistol. The ability to use personal weapons also demonstrated

³³ SRSASPH. F. 656. In. 19. F. 28. Sh. 157

good indicators. Thus, in shooting from the revolver "Nagan", the tasks of the cadets were performed "well" and "excellent" in 1939 – 67%, in 1940 – 78%.³⁴

The cadets devoted a significant amount of time to studying the tactics of modern combat. According to the system of building defense in the USSR, during the war, police officers could take part in battles with the enemy as platoon and company commanders, they had to be able to conduct reconnaissance operations, as well as counteract enemy sabotage groups. At all times of the year, the cadets went to the exercises, which were held in an environment close to combat. There they studied the existing samples of small arms, artillery, light combat vehicles, made marches at a distance of up to 20 km over rough terrain, trained to overcome natural obstacles, built fortifications. So, in 1939, the cadets spent 14 days in the field, in 1940 – 45 days, in the winter months of 1941 – 12 days.³⁵

4. Internal training system

As it was already noted above, the inter-regional schools trained an insignificant number of personnel who could only cover the needs of the average managerial staff. At the same time, after the personnel purges in the PCIA bodies in 1938, people who were previously only relatively familiar with the work of the police came to the vacant places. For their training, courses were formed in each division – the district or city police department, where the most experienced employees taught. The work of organizing such courses was usually assigned to the primary party organizations. In the pre-war years, there were primary organizations of the CPSU(b) at every district or city branch of the PCIA. So, in order to improve the professional level of PCIA officers, a commander's training lasting 8 hours was conducted once a week.³⁶

The central place in the system of commander's training was given to the study of the "Short course of the history of the CPSU(b)". Often in the documents there is a generalized formulation with an assessment of the negative behavior or unsatisfactory result of the work of PCIA employees, which was reduced to the fact that they do not study the "Short Course of the CPSU(b)". According to the leaders of the party cell of the department of the RKM PCIA of Ulyanovsk, the situation was bad with public reading of newspapers, since they were not visited by the command staff. However, along with the "Short Course of the History of the CPSU(b)", the most important

³⁴ SRSASPH. F. 656. In. 19. F. 28. Sh. 158

³⁵ SRSASPH. F. 656. In. 19. F. 28. Sh. 167

³⁶ SACHUR F. 13. In. 1. F. 1979. Sh. 9.

directions of the policy pursued by the Communist Party were also studied. For the most part, each decision of the CPSU(b) was supported by the publication of an appropriate regulatory legal act. For example, on June 26, 1940, a decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR was issued, which was aimed at prohibiting the unauthorized dismissal of workers from enterprises without the order of the director. It also provided for a conditional criminal penalty for being late for work. During July-December 1940, all the courses of the commander's training were devoted to the study of the law enforcement of the norms of this law.³⁷

Also in the system of commander's training there were classes on the study of the norms of criminal and administrative law of the USSR, methods of working with agents, mechanisms for the prevention and disclosure of property and economic crimes. During the hours of the commander's training, the officers improved in rifle training, as well as in hand-to-hand combat.³⁸ It was also the responsibility of the command staff of the territorial departments and the PCIA department to conduct information and educational events with junior command and enlisted personnel. Such events were considered as an effective tool for transferring service experience. The duties of ordinary policemen included the external service, which was responsible for protecting public order. They detained people who were intoxicated, hooligans, robbers, as well as all suspicious persons on the streets of cities and villages. As representatives of the government, ordinary policemen were required to know all the current laws of the country. Therefore, their course training was structured as follows. Classes lasting from two to three hours were held three times a week. Three hours a week were devoted to the study of the Criminal Code of the USSR and the Code of Administrative Offenses of the USSR, two hours were devoted to the practice of identifying suspicious persons, methods of identifying and detaining criminals, and two more hours were allocated for political and general education training.³⁹

It should be noted that the system of internal course training brought tangible results. In 1940, with the help of a system of short-term courses, 53 PCIA employees and 373 police officers were retrained only on the territory of the Kuibyshev region, which significantly exceeded the number of graduates of the Kuibyshev inter-regional police school. The positive aspects of the courses should also include the fact that their

³⁷ SACHUR F. 13. In. 1. F. 1982. Sh. 6.

³⁸ SACHUR F. 13. In. 1. F. 1980. Sh. 11

³⁹ SACHUR. F. 13. In. 1. F. 1979. Sh. 9

program could change depending on the needs of a particular PCIA unit in working out individual knowledge and skills of policemen.⁴⁰

5. Conclusion

The system of personnel training after the reform of the PCIA bodies in 1938 on the territory of the Kuibyshev region fully corresponded to the tasks that the society set for the police. By May 1941, it was possible to eliminate the shortage of well-educated personnel. Policemen trained by police schools and courses demonstrated good skills in preventing and suppressing criminal offenses. For example, for the first three months of 1940, the police in eight rural districts of the Kuibyshev region identified and suppressed attempts to steal grain and seeds from collective farms, as well as the property of a plant for the production of mixed feed. At the same time, we were talking about large criminal groups, and for the suppression of their activities, a competent implementation of agent work was necessary. So, in Syzran, the police stopped a criminal group of 7 people who stole more than 13 tons of wheat and almost two tons of oats at the time of the crime.⁴¹

The Kuibyshev inter-regional police school was one of the best in the USSR. Thus, in comparison with the Saratov inter – regional police School, students from Kuibyshev demonstrated performance indicators for educational, special, combat and physical training by 20-25% higher. However, in the autumn of 1941, due to the outbreak of the war, the number of police educational institutions was halved, and the number of cadets studying in them was four times reduced.⁴² The Kuibyshev inter-regional police School was also liquidated. Nevertheless, it was possible to preserve the experienced staff of teachers, who were transferred to work in the Kuibyshev regional department of the PCIA. In October 1944, the Central School of the PCIA of the USSR was established on the basis of the teaching staff of the Kuibyshev Inter-regional Police School, as well as with the involvement of the North Dvina and Ukhtaizhmen schools of the PCIA of the USSR.⁴³

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