

THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATION OF CORRECTIVE-LABOR
CAMPS — THE GULAG — WAS CREATED.

GULAG | MEMORY
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FROM
THE LETTER
BY SHALAMOV
TO SOLZHENITSYN
1964

PUBLICATION
PROJECT
OF THE GULAG
HISTORY
MUSEUM

ATLAS OF THE GULAG

IN THE CAMPS, THERE IS NOTHING WORSE,
MORE OFFENSIVE THAN DEADLY HEAVY
PHYSICAL SERVITUDE. THERE IS NOTHING
MORE CYNICAL THAN AN INSCRIPTION
THAT HANGS ON THE PEDIMENTS OF ALL
THE CAMP ZONES: "LABOR IS A MATTER
OF HONOR, A MATTER OF GLORY,
A MATTER OF VALOR AND HEROISM!"





ATLAS OF THE GULAG

ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE SOVIET REPRESSIVE SYSTEM

Moscow
2019

**GULAG
History
Museum**

**MEMORY
FUND**

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Naturally, this publication is not capable to answer all the questions about the history of the GULAG. Yet, it should serve to navigate basic concepts, events, and dates. The Museum's experts chose key documents, facts, statistical data, quotes, and photo materials, through which one can trace the origin, development, and decline of the repressive system in the USSR during the period 1920–1950.

Despite being concise, “Atlas of the GULAG” relies on multiple information sources about the GULAG: academic research, archive documents, eyewitness memories, unique photographs, museum exhibits, which are material evidence of the repression epoch.

Such a book was missing for many years. Now for the first time written in an accessible language, “Atlas of the GULAG” will interest both the ones who have just encountered the theme of repression and those who would like to fill the gaps in chronology. It will help to understand economics and topography of the GULAG, living conditions, and survival strategies in camps, processes of rehabilitation, and the state of cultural memory about the GULAG today.

**ROMAN ROMANOV,
DIRECTOR OF THE GULAG HISTORY MUSEUM,
HEAD OF THE MEMORY FUND**

CHAPTER 1. PROTOGULAG

BOLSHEVIK CONCENTRATION CAMPS WERE THE PART OF THE PUBLIC POLICY OF THE RED TERROR DURING THE FIRST YEARS OF THE SOVIET POWER.

CHRONOLOGY:

NOVEMBER 22, (DECEMBER 5), 1917

The Council of People's Commissars (Sovnarkom, SNK) Decree "On Court" abolished the existing judicial system and established revolutionary tribunals, which should have been guided by "revolutionary conscience and revolutionary legal awareness" in their judicial activities.

APRIL 11, 1919

The All-Union Central Executive Committee (VTsIK) released a Decree "On forced labor camps." According to this document, such camps were organized under each countries executive committees. Each camp was intended for no less than 300 people.

MAY 12, 1919

The VTsIK approved "The instruction for forced labor camps," which set the legal regulation of camps activities in motion.

OCTOBER 13, 1923

The SNK of the USSR approved an order on the organization of the Solovetsky Special Designation Camp. It defined organization and governance of the camp, which was based on two main points of distribution in Arkhangelsk and Kem, on the Joint State Political Administration (OGPU).



With the victory of the October Revolution the Soviet power terminated evolutionary path of the penitentiary system in the country and established a network of the new punitive bodies, which were not known in Russia before — forced labor camps, which became the main tool of repressive politics of the Soviet state.

The first concentration camps for convicts appeared on the territory of the Soviet republic in summer 1918, during the Civil war. They were a part of the public policy of the Red Terror. Mostly, the camps were established on the premises of Orthodox monasteries. After the Civil war special prison camps, subordinate units of the OGPU itself, replaced "quick fix" places of detention.

1. "Case No. 1. Andronievo — Forced Labor Camp."

Most commonly, the camps were established on the premises of Orthodox monasteries. During summer 1919 Andronikov Monastery became Andronikov forced labor camp.

[Read more about detention conditions in this camp in duchess T. Kurakina's memoirs on page 10](#)

2. Prisoners of one of Moscow concentration camps at work. 1918. RGAКФД

[Read more about the use of forced labor on page 8](#)

**THE NUMBER OF FORCED LABOR CAMPS EXPLODED:
BY THE END OF 1919, 21 CAMPS EXISTED
ON THE TERRITORY OF RSFSR, AND BY THE SUMMER
OF 1920, THERE WERE 49, AND IN NOVEMBER —
122 CAMPS.**

“...Arrest, as hostages, large representatives of bourgeoisie, landowners, manufacturers, traders, counter-revolutionary priests, all officers opposed to the Soviet power, and incarcerate all this public in concentration camps with the most reliable guard, making all these gentlemen work under escort.”

**FROM THE SECRET ALL-RUSSIAN EXTRAORDINARY COMMISSION (VChK) DECREE
“ON THE RED TERROR” AS OF SEPTEMBER 2, 1918**

“...In this situation, terror is necessary to provide rear security; [...] it is desired to make sure that the Soviet republic is free from class enemies through their isolation at concentration camps. Every individual associated with White Guard organizations, conspiracies, and rebellions is subject to shooting.”

FROM THE SNK DECREE “ON THE RED TERROR” AS OF SEPTEMBER 5, 1918

“Comrade Kamenschikov, whom I appointed as head of railroad Moscow-Kazan, ordered to create concentration camps in Murom, Arzamas, and Sviyazhsk, in which all dark agitators, counter-revolutionary officers, saboteurs, parasites, black marketeers will be incarcerated. We will make the only exception for those, who are shot on the crime scene or sentenced for other punishment by Revolutionary tribunals.”

**FROM THE DECREE BY NARKOM OF WAR AND MARINE AFFAIRS L. TROTSKY
AS OF AUGUST 8, 1918**

3.



4.



3. Poster: “Tsar, priest, and kulak are enemies of the nation.” GA RF

4. L. Trotsky among soldiers of the Red Army. 1918

DURING THE PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 1917 TO NOVEMBER 1921 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CONVICTS INCREASED FROM 36 THOUSAND TO 183 THOUSAND PEOPLE.

Following the signing of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk in March 1918, former camps for captives of war were reorganized into VChK concentration camps. They accommodated political opponents of the Soviet power, participants and supporters of the White movement, and foreign prisoners of war. Thus, a network of VChK camps emerged on the territory of the USSR beginning in spring 1919. In 1919 People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs (NKVD) of RSFSR joins the organization of camps. Such close collaboration of the VChK and the NKVD resulted in F. Dzerzhinsky to be the head of both agencies from March 1919.

Chairman of the VChK F. Dzerzhinsky was the main initiator of the idea to use concentration camps as repressive measure. He developed the concept of the Soviet camp system and gave a theoretical justification of exploitation of the forced labor.

“The punishment does not consider rehabilitation of a criminal. [...] The Republic cannot be sympathetic toward criminals and cannot spend too much funds on them. They should compensate all related expenses with their work. We should send them away to occupy deserted and pathless areas, such as Pechora, Obrodsk and others.”

FROM A LETTER BY F. DZERZHINSKY TO THE CENTRAL CONTROL COMMISSION (CKK RKP(b)) AS OF FEBRUARY 17, 1924



1. F. Dzerzhinsky (in the middle) at the yard of VChK. 1918. RGAKFD



2. Convicts of the one of Moscow camps at work. 1918. RGAKFD

3, 4. Posters “Bolshevism cause is the cause of the Devil,” “Bolsheviks' gift.” GA RF

HOSTAGE TAKING, A NEW PUNITIVE MEASURE THAT HAD NOT BEEN APPLIED IN RUSSIA BEFORE THE REVOLUTION, WAS INTRODUCED TO SUPPRESS OPPOSITION OF VARIOUS GROUPS OF THE POPULATION.

They arrested people from all segments of society as hostages. In the first place, they took particularly well-known and distinguished members of the society. Hostages were subjected to be shot with no exception in case of any anti-Soviet performances or disturbances in a given locality.

Because of this fact, shootings of convicts were usual within the concentration camps.

“They took hostages in Ryazan in the summer of 1918. There were so many convicts that the municipal prisons could not take them, so they were gathered at the first concentration camp (there were more of them later...), set up at the outskirts in a former convent. [...]

This city concentration camp has existed for quite long, and you cannot imagine how many went through it! Later, here they placed captured white guards, who were imprisoned upon a verdict of a revolution tribunal, widows of shot ones, who were expiating their ‘guilt’ by scrubbing floors at train stations, and ‘has-beens’, as new inhumans called them.”

FROM MEMOIRS OF A. GARASEVA, AN ANARCHIST, A FORMER CONVICT, AND LATER AN “ILLEGAL SECRETARY” OF A. SOLZHENYTSYN

During the suppression of the Tambov peasant revolt (1921) by the governmental army, a large amount of field concentration camps for hostages were created. Most of the hostages were children, women, and old people. By the August 1, 1921, according to incomplete data, 1155 youngsters, including 397 children under 3 years old, and 785 — under 5 years old, were kept in 10 concentration camps.



THERE WERE A LOT OF DISTINGUISHED PEOPLE AMONG CONVICTS OF THE FIRST SOVIET CAMPS: REPRESENTATIVES OF THE RUSSIAN ARISTOCRACY, SCIENTISTS, POLITICIANS, ENTREPRENEURS.

For instance, the daughter of L. Tolstoy Aleksandra, duchess T. Kurakina, nee Baroness Wrangel, the distinguished Russian economist D. Kondratiev, a former member of the State Duma cadet Chernosyotov, and many others were sentenced to imprisonment at concentration camps.

“...I am not hiding I am not fond of Bolshevism. I have expressed my perspective openly and directly at court. However, I have never opposed the Soviet government, and would never stand against it actively. I was never involved in politics and neither did I take part in any parties. I wonder what gives the Soviet government a right to lock me up within four walls as some kind of harmful animal, leaving myself with no possibility to work with and for people, who are most important to me? [...] Vladimir Ilyich! If I am harmful to Russia, expel me abroad. If I am harmful there too, taking in consideration a right of one person to kill another, shoot me as a harmful member of the Soviet republic. But do not make to live a life of a parasite locked within four walls with prostitutes, thieves, and bandits.”

FROM A DRAFT LETTER BY A. TOLSTAYA TO V. LENIN, WHICH SHE WROTE AT NOVOSPASSKIY CONCENTRATION CAMP IN 1920

“They accommodated us, ladies, in a special building which was a former bishop's residence. It was so cold there. The deserted house was so damp, so when I climbed my bunk bed I felt that the boards are not just moist but wet. When I woke up I could feel I was soaked and chilly to the bone. They fed us terribly. In simple words, they starved us. There was no oven, so we had no heating during days when it was freezing outside.”

FROM MEMOIRS OF DUCHESS T. KURAKINA, A CONVICT OF THE ANDRONEVO FORCED LABOR CAMP



1. “Case No. 1. Andronevo — Forced Labor Camp.”



2. A. Tolstaya with her father, writer L. Tolstoy. Not later than 1910

THE COUNCIL OF PEOPLE'S COMMISSARS ORGANIZED THE SOLOVETSKY SPECIAL DESTINATION CAMP (SLON) IN AUTUMN 1923.

All forced labor camps were closed during the period from 1922 to 1923. The GPU replaced the VChK and later transformed into the Joint State Political Administration (OGPU) after the establishment of the USSR in 1923. The OGPU got significant privileges to organize camps at remote and sparsely populated regions. The Soviet government saw great potential in using forced labor and in particular colonization of new territories and areas, the most distant corners of the country, which were rich in natural resources needed to enshrine the regime of the new state. The Solovetsky Special Camp (SLON) became the first camp of the new type. The camp was located on the bigger Solovki island amidst the White Sea.

During the first seven years of the camp's existence, the number of convicts, of which many were political prisoners, had grown from 3 thousand to 60 thousand people. The experience with the Solovki became the base for further development of the Soviet camp system.



2. The Red Army soldiers serving on the Solovki islands. Writings on the banner read as follows: the bottom left: "Keep gunpowder dry!"; the upper right: "There are no front lines, but the threat exists." The 1920s. GMIG

1. Female sewing workshop of the Solovetsky Special Camp. The 1920s. GMIG

3. Solovetsky Special Camp convicts, laying pavement. GMIG

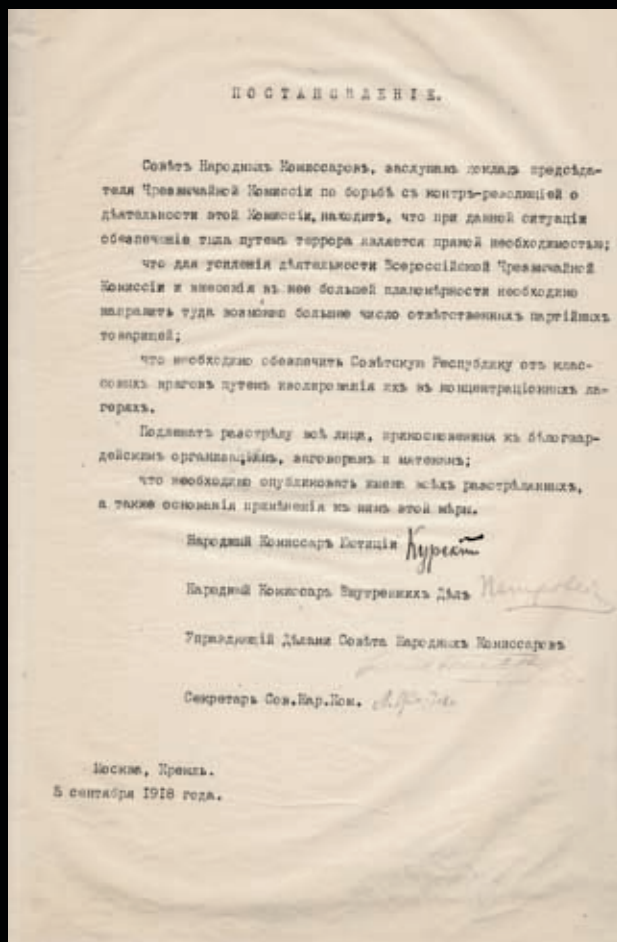
4. Solovetsky Special Camp infirmary. Male ward. The 1920s. GMIG



Convicts arrival to the Kem distribution point of the Solovki Special Camp. A still of the film "Solovki (Solovetsky special camps)." In seven parts. Sovkino production. 1927-1928. RGAKFD



1.



2.

С в е д е н и я

о наличии детей, содержащихся в интернатных Тамбовской губернии на 1-ое августа 1921 года.

№ п/п	Имя и фамилия интерн.	детей до 5-х л.	детей до 10 л.	итого.	Примечания.
1.	Тамбовский № 1	74	167	241	Средняя точка абсолютная.
2.	----- № 2	03	-	03	
3.	Воронежский № 3	-	-	-	Тамбовский № 1 обследован только, там там предположительно о большом количестве детей как в лагерях, так и в интернатах, особенно в интернате, в котором содержится значительное количество детей.
4.	----- № 4	25	76	101	
5.	Воронежский № 5	03	08	11	
6.	----- № 6	Сведения не поступ.			
7.	Камышинский № 7	10	15	25	
8.	Саратовский № 8	180	50	230	
9.	Владимирский № 9	02	12	14	
10.	Самарский № 10	150	150	300	
Итого		397	768	1165	

2837429/12712/1/2018/1/

1. The SNK of the USSR decree on the organization of the Solovetsky Forced Labor Camp of Special Destination as of October 13, 1923. GA RF

2. The SNK decree "On Red Terror" as of September, 5, 1918 gave extrajudicial repression on political grounds and concentration camps the official status. RGASPI

Обсуждению не подлежит.-

Пр. № 4 п. 6.-

19 15 11 13.

ПОСТАНОВЛЕНИЕ
СОВЕТА НАРОДНЫХ КОМИССАРОВ СССР

Совет Народных Комиссаров СССР постановляет:

1.- Организовать Соловецкий Лагерь Принудительных работ особого назначения в двух пересильно-распределительных пунктах в Архангельск и Кони.

2.- Организацию и управление указанным в ст. I Лагерем и пересильно-распределительными пунктами возложить на ОГПУ.-

3.- Все угодья, здания, живой инвентарь и мертвый инвентарь, ранее принадлежавшие бывшему Соловецкому монастырю, а равно Пертоминскому лагерю и Архангельскому пересильно-распределительному пункту передать безвозмездно ОГПУ.-

4.- Одновременно- передать в пользование ОГПУ находящуюся на Соловецких островах радиостанцию.-

5.- Обязать ОГПУ немедленно приступить к организации труда заключенных для использования сельско-хозяйственных, рыбных, лесных и др. промыслов и предприятий, освободив таковые от уплаты государственных и местных налогов и сборов.

ЗАМ. ПРЕДСЕДАТЕЛЯ СОВЕТА
НАРОДНЫХ КОМИССАРОВ:

/РЕКОВ/.-

УПРАВЛЯЮЩИЙ ДЕЛАМИ СОВЕТА
НАРОДНЫХ КОМИССАРОВ:

/ГОРБУНОВ/

С Е К Р Е Т А Р Ъ СОВЕТА
НАРОДНЫХ КОМИССАРОВ:

/ФОТИЕВА/.-

CHAPTER 2. POLITICAL REPRESSION

STATE REPRESSION ON POLITICAL GROUNDS IN FORMS OF “REVOLUTIONARY VIOLENCE,” “THE RED TERROR,” “CLASS MASSACRE” HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED FROM THE FIRST DAYS OF THE SOVIET POWER EXISTENCE.

CHRONOLOGY:

DECEMBER 7 (20), 1917

The SNK releases the Decree “On creation of the All-Russian Extraordinary Commission for the Struggle against Counterrevolution, Sabotage and Work-Related Crime under the Council of People’s Commissars” (VChK). F. Dzerzhinsky became the head of VChK.

FEBRUARY 6, 1922

The VChk was reorganized into the State Political Administration (GPU) under the NKVD RSFSR by the VTsIK Decree “On the abolition of All-Russian Extraordinary Commission and on rules of searches, confiscations, and arrests.”

JULY 6, 1923

The TSik USSR established the Joint State Political Administration (OGPU) under the SNK USSR to organize the field work of the GPU divisions at the all-Union scope.

FEBRUARY 25, 1927

The TSik USSR adopted the Decree “On governmental crimes (counter-revolutionary and severely hazardous crimes against governance arrangements of the Soviet Union),” upon which the article 58 was included into the Penal Code of the RSFSR. This article included 14 points, which established the elements of contra-revolutionary offences.

JULY 10, 1934

The order by the TSik USSR established the NKVD USSR, which now included the OGPU. The structure of the narcomate included the Main Directorate of State Security (GUGb), the Main Directorate of Corrective-labor camps and labor settlements (GULAG) and other bodies.



Starting summer 1918, political repression became an mass event turning into forthright terror. Practically any person could fall in the category of a “class enemy” based on their descent, profession, party affiliation, family ties, etc.

1. Poster “All hail NKVD”
Artists V. Deni, N. Dolgorukov,
1939. GA RF

[Read more about the time of NKVD
USSR creation on page 18](#)

2. Banner with slogan
“We will fortify the sword
of the dictatorship
of the proletariat — OGPU”
at the Sverdlov square during
the trial of the Prompartia.
Moscow. November, 1930.
GCMSIR

[Read more about punitive structures
of the repressive apparatus on page 17](#)

The Bolsheviks established a certain repressive mechanism to suppress public resistance. They gave this mechanism an authority of extra-judicial punishment, to include execution by shooting. The VChK, the OGPU, the Special Board under the NKVD, “troikas,” “dvoikas,” and other punitive bodies had extra-judicial authorization, which meant the right to decide penalty and sentence without a trial. The number of those sentenced by extra-judicial bodies was numbered in the hundreds of thousands.

The Military Collegium of the Supreme Court of the Soviet Union was a crucial part of the political repression mechanism. The activity of this judicial body was carried out under the direct supervision of the politburo of the TsK VKP(b) led by Stalin.

“THE TERROR DERIVES FROM THE NATURE OF THE REVOLUTION, THE AIM (SOCIALISM) JUSTIFIES IT UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS.” — L. TROTSKY

To date, the questions about the total number of the Red Terror victims remains a point of discussion. Modern researches consider that ascertainment of accurate figures of the deceased during the Red and White Terror would be impossible.



3. Rally in support of the Red Terror by the members of the Petrograd County Council. Petrograd. September, 1918. Vostock Photo

ACCORDING TO INCOMPLETE OFFICIAL RECORDS, ABOUT 5.5 MILLION PEOPLE WERE CONVICTED OF COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY CRIMES IN THE USSR FROM 1921 TO 1956. NO LESS THAN 800 THOUSAND WERE SENTENCED TO BE SHOT.

“We demolish the enemy and do it well. We have smashed Trotskyists, really, really well. I won't state any numbers, but they are quite impressive, many of them were destroyed. We are smashing SRs, snoopers from Germany and Poland, and Japan. However, it is just the beginning and not all we have up the sleeve...”

FROM A SPEECH BY NARKOM OF THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS N. YEZHOV TO OFFICIALS OF THE MAIN DIRECTORATE OF STATE SECURITY NKVD USSR, MARCH 19, 1937.

On November 5, 1934, the order of TSiK and SNK created the Special Board under the NKVD USSR. This body had a right to sentence to eviction, exile, confinement at corrective-labor camp (ITL) for up to 5 years and expulsion from the USSR under administrative procedure. In subsequent years, the extra-judicial authority of the Special Board was expanded as far as sentencing to the shooting.

“There was no review of the merits of cases in the Military Collegium. The Military Collegium churned out the materials of a preliminary investigation, based on the predetermined punishment. A ‘court hearing’ of the Military Collegium took 15–20 minutes including sentencing reading. [...] It has been established that the Military Collegium of the Supreme Court of the USSR made it up to sentencing by telegram.”

FROM THE REPORT BY THE COMMISSION OF THE TsK KPSS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CAUSES OF MASS REPRESSION, 1956

1.



1. Poster “All hail NKVD.” Artists V. Deni, N. Dolgorukov, 1939. GA RF

2. A general meeting of the workers of the “Dinamo” factory, Moscow, 1936. Voting for the resolution that demanded to sentence the members of “Trotsky-Zinoviev gang” to be shot. Writing on the banner: “The verdict of the labor people is to wipe Trotsky-Zinoviev gang out of existence!” RGAKFD

“In our country, the period from 1935 to 1940 is the time of massive arrests of the Soviet citizens. During these years 1,980,634 people were arrested and accused of anti-Soviet activities, and 688,503 were shot.”

FROM THE REPORT BY THE COMMISSION OF THE TsK KPSS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CAUSES OF MASS REPRESSION, 1956

“The Ministry of Internal Affairs of the USSR identified flagrant perversion of the Soviet laws, arrests of the innocent Soviet citizens, unbridled fabrication of investigative materials, extensive use of different tortures in the work of investigatory activities of the Ministry of State Security (MGB). There were severe beatings of arrestees, round-the-clock usage of handcuffs locked behind back, sometimes carried on for months, sleep deprivation for lengthy periods of time, confinement of undressed arrestees in cold punishment cells, etc. [...] Such monstrous ‘interrogation techniques’ led to the decline of physical strength among innocent arrestees, moral depression, and sometimes even loss of human form.”

FROM THE ORDER BY THE MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS “ON THE PROHIBITION OF MEASURES OF PHYSICAL ABUSE TOWARDS ARRESTEES,” APRIL 4, 1953

2.



1

Совершенно секретно

СЕКРЕТАРЮ ЦК КПСС

товарищу ХРУЩЕВУ Н.С.

Докладываем Вам предложения в отношении лиц, осужденных Особым Совещанием при НКВД-МГБ СССР за время его существования.

Особое Совещание при НКВД СССР было создано Постановлением ЦИК и СНК СССР от 5 ноября 1934 года и существовало до 1 сентября 1953 года.

За это время Особым Совещанием было осуждено 442.531 человек, в том числе к высшей мере наказания 10.101 человек, к лишению свободы 360.921 человек, к ссылке и высылке (в пределах страны) 67.539 человек и к другим мерам наказания (зачет времени нахождения под стражей, высылка за границу, принудительное лечение) 3.970 человек.

Особым Совещанием было осуждено:

в 1934 году <u>1.003</u> чел.	в 1944 году <u>10.611</u> чел.
1935 году <u>29.452</u> чел.	1945 году <u>26.581</u> чел.
1936 году <u>18.969</u> чел.	1946 году <u>8.320</u> чел.
1937 году <u>17.911</u> чел.	1947 году <u>13.393</u> чел.
1938 году <u>45.768</u> чел.	1948 году <u>17.257</u> чел.
1939 году <u>13.021</u> чел.	1949 году <u>38.460</u> чел.
1940 году <u>42.912</u> чел.	1950 году <u>19.449</u> чел.
1941 году <u>26.534</u> чел.	1951 году <u>9.076</u> чел.
1942 году <u>77.548</u> чел.	1952 году <u>958</u> чел.
1943 году <u>25.134</u> чел.	1953 году <u>204</u> чел.

*поиском
архив (транз-
дичия)*

1. A position paper by the Minister of Internal Affairs of the USSR S. Kruglov and the Prosecutor General of the USSR R. Rudenko as of December 8, 1953. The paper includes statistics and suggestions to verify the grounds of accusation against counter-revolutionary indictees, sentenced by NKVD-MGB USSR. RGANI

2. A position paper by the Minister of Internal Affairs (MVD) of the USSR S. Kruglov on the discovery of 383 lists of "people subjected to the trial by the Military Collegium of the Supreme Court of the Soviet Union" found at the MVD USSR archives as of February 3, 1954. RGASPI

ОСОБАЯ ПАПКА 1

Совершенно секретно



СССР

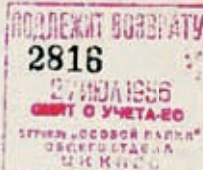
МИНИСТЕРСТВО
ВНУТРЕННИХ ДЕЛ

3 - февраля 1954.

№ 297/к
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СЕКРЕТАРЮ ЦК КПСС

товарищу ХРУЩЕВУ Н.С.




Докладываю Вам, что в архивах МВД СССР обнаружено 383 списка "лиц, подлежащих суду Военной Коллегии Верховного Суда СССР". Эти списки были составлены в 1937 и 1938 годах НКВД СССР и тогда же представлены в ЦК ВКП(б) на рассмотрение. На всех списках имеются собственноручные резолюции И.В.СТАЛИНА и других членов Политбюро.

Представляю при этом подлинники всех указанных списков. Для необходимой справочной работы в МВД имеются вторые экземпляры (копии) списков.

ПРИЛОЖЕНИЕ: по тексту в 11 томах.

МИНИСТР ВНУТРЕННИХ ДЕЛ СССР


(С. КРУГЛОВ)

Дошло
Через... 1954 года...
В. Морин

Хранится в архиве Президиума
и т.д.

27/156, В. Морин

102 255

МОСКВА - ЦЕНТР

[Handwritten signatures in red ink]

[Handwritten signatures in blue ink]

СПИСОК

ЛИЦ, ПОДЛЕЖАЩИХ СУДУ ВОЕННОЙ КОЛЛЕГИИ
ВЕРХОВНОГО СУДА СЮЗА ССР.

"20" августа 1937 г.

3. A "shooting list" as of August 20, 1937 with resolution "For" and signatures of I. Stalin, S. Kosior, V. Molotov, L. Kaganovich, K. Voroshilov.

4. A report on numbers of the accused by the Military Collegium of the Supreme Court of the Soviet Union during 1934-1955. Activities of this judicial body were carried out under the direct supervision of the Politburo if the TsK VKP(b) led by Stalin. The vast majority of convicts were sentenced to be shot. GA RF

321

Совершенно секретно
ЗКз.№1

СПРАВКА
О КОЛИЧЕСТВЕ ОСУЖДЕННЫХ ВОЕННОЙ КОЛЛЕГИЕЙ ВЕРХСУДА СССР
за период 1934-1955 г.г.

1934 г.....	224
1935 г.....	458
1936 г.....	1245
1937 г.....	14732
1938 г.....	24435
1939 г.....	2276
1940 г.....	1307
1941 г.....	1426
1942 г.....	72
1943 г.....	60
1944 г.....	123
1945 г.....	273
1946 г.....	93
1947 г.....	76
1948 г.....	47
1949 г.....	15
1950 г.....	245
1951 г.....	102
1952 г.....	147
1953 г.....	51
1954 г.....	27
1955 г.....	25

Итого: 47.459

Примечание: за период с 1.X.1936 по 30.XI.1938 г.
осуждено к ВМН-31.456, к лишению свободы
6.857.

НАЧАЛЬНИК СЕКРЕТНОГО ОТДЕЛА ВОЕННОЙ КОЛЛЕГИИ
ПОДПОЛКОВНИК ЮСТИЦИИ

Мазур
/МАЗУР/

Сов. секретно

23

В Президиум ЦК КПСС

В соответствии с Вашим поручением докладываем:

Нами изучены имеющиеся в Комитете госбезопасности архивные документы, из которых видно, что 1935-1940 годы в нашей стране являются годами массовых арестов советских граждан.

Всего за эти годы было арестовано по обвинению в анти-советской деятельности 1.920.635 человек, из них расстреляно 688.503.

Особый размах репрессий имел место в 1937-38 г.г., что видно из следующей таблицы:

	г о д и					
	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
арестовано	114.456	88.873	918.671	629.695	416.27	127.313
из них расстреляно	1.229	1.118	353.074	328.618	2.601	1.863

Таким образом, за два года - 1937-1938 было арестовано 1.548.366 человек и из них расстреляно 681.692.

Волна массовых репрессий 1937-38 г.г. широко захватила руководящих работников партийных, советских органов, хозяйственных организаций, а также командный состав в армии и органах НКВД.

В большинстве республик, краев и областей в эти годы было арестовано почти все руководство партийных и советских органов, а также значительное количество руководителей городских и районных организаций.

5. The first page of the report by the Commission of the TsK KPSS on the establishment of causes of mass repression presented to the Presidium of the TsK KPSS on February 9, 1956. RGASPI

6. The order by the Minister of Internal Affairs L. Beriya "On the prohibition of the use of any coercive measures and physical abuse towards arrestees" as of April 4, 1953, banned MVD bodies to use any tortures and abuse against arrestees. GA RF

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90
СОВ. СЕКРЕТНО**ПРИКАЗ****МИНИСТРА ВНУТРЕННИХ ДЕЛ СОЮЗА ССР****за 1953 год**Содержание:

0068

О запрещении применения к арестованным каких-либо мер принуждения и физического воздействия.

0068

4 апреля 1953 года г.ср.Москва



Министерством внутренних дел СССР установлено, что в следственной работе органов МГБ имели место грубейшие извращения советских законов, аресты невинных советских граждан, разнузданная фальсификация следственных материалов, широкое применение различных способов пыток: жесткие избиения арестованных, круглосуточное применение наручников на вывернутые за спину руки, предлагавшееся в отдельных случаях в течение нескольких месяцев, длительное лишение сна, заключение арестованных в раздетом виде в холодный карцер и др.

По указанию руководства б.Министерства государственной безопасности СССР избиения арестованных проводились в оборудованных для этой цели помещениях в Лефортовской и внутренней тюрьмах и поручались особой группе специально выделенных лиц из числа тюремных работников, с применением всевозможных орудий пыток.

October 18, 1991 No. 1761-1

RUSSIAN SOVIET FEDERATIVE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

LAW

ON REHABILITATION OF THE VICTIMS OF POLITICAL REPRESSION

During the years of the Soviet power existence, millions of people became victims of the totalitarian state outrage, were exposed to political repression for political and religious beliefs, due to social, national, and other grounds.

Condemning longstanding terror and mass prosecution of its own nation as measures incompatible with the idea of law and justice, the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR expresses deep sympathies to all victims of unjustified repression, their families, and relatives and declares the commitment to pursue real guarantees to uphold the law and human rights.

The main aim of the present law is the rehabilitation of all victims of political repression that occurred on the territory of the RSFSR starting October, 25 (November, 7) 1917, reinstatement of their civil rights, elimination of other consequences of the arbitrariness, and provision of the currently possible compensation of moral and material damage.

I. General provisions

Article 1. Political repression is referred to different coercive measures, implied by the government on political grounds, in the form of deprivation of life or liberty, involuntary confinement at the psychiatric institutions, expulsion from the country and denationalization, deportation of population groups from their places of residence, exiling, eviction to special settlements, involvement in forced labor under restriction of liberty, and any other form of denial and restriction of rights and liberties of people, who were recognized as dangerous to the state and political order based on class, social, national, religious or any other grounds, and ordered by a court and other bodies with judicial functions, or under administrative procedure carried out by executive bodies and officials.

Article 2. This law shall apply to all Soviet citizens, both of RSFSR and other Republics, foreigners and stateless persons, who were subjected to political repression on the territory of RSFSR starting October 25 (November, 7) 1917. Together with persons who were directly subjected to coercive measures, children who were in places of detention, in exile, deportation, at special settlements with their parents, and exposed to other restrictions of rights and liberties in the connection to the repression against their parents shall be considered victims of political repression.

Restoration of rights and provision of social benefits for such persons shall be carried out in cases, stated by the USSR and RSFSR legislation specifically.

Article 3. All persons, who were subjected to following, are liable to rehabilitation:

- a) conviction for governmental and other crimes;
- b) subjected to criminal repression under the decisions of the bodies of VChK, GPU-OGPU, UNKVD-NKVD, MGB, MVD, procuracy and their collegium, "Special boards," "troikas," "dvoikas," and other bodies with judicial powers;
- c) exile, deportation, eviction to special settlements, involvement in forced labor under the restriction of liberty, including "NKVD labor convoy," and other restrictions of rights and liberties under administrative procedure;
- d) confinement at psychiatric institutions for compulsory treatment by a court decision.

Article 4. The persons, who are included in Article 3 and were reasonably convicted by the court or subjected to punishment by extra-judicial bodies in cases with sufficient evidence of the following crimes committed, are not liable for rehabilitation:

- a) high treason in the form of espionage, rendition of military or governmental secrets, siding of the military personnel with the enemy; espionage, terrorist act, sabotage;
- b) act of violence against the civil population and prisoners of war, aiding the traitors of the motherland and fascist occupants in such acts during the Great Patriotic War;
- c) organisation of the criminal groups and participation in murders, robberies, and other acts of violence committed by such groups;
- d) military crimes and crimes against justice.

Article 5. The following acts shall be considered to not contain any public danger, and persons convicted for such acts are subjected to rehabilitation regardless of the factual validity of the accusation:

- a) anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda;
- b) spreading of deliberately false insinuations which besmirch Soviet governmental or public order;
- c) breaking the laws on distancing of the church from the state and the education from the church;
- d) assault of identity and civil rights under the guise of religious rites, namely under the articles 70 (in the edition in force before the issue of the Order of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR from September 11, 1990), 190.1, 142 and 227 of the Penal Code of the RSFSR, and corresponding norms of the legislation previously in force.

CHAPTER 3. FORCED MIGRATION

MASS EVICTION OF DISPOSSESSED KULAKS, “ANTI-SOVIET ELEMENTS,” MEMBERS OF NATIONAL MINORITIES, “PUNISHED POPULATIONS” TO DISTANT REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY INTO SPECIAL SETTLEMENTS (OR LABOR SETTLEMENTS) HAS OCCURRED.

CHRONOLOGY:

JANUARY 30, 1930

Politburo of the TsK VKP(b) adopted the secret resolution “On measures to eliminate kulak farms in areas of continuous collectivization,” which prescribed: to confiscate all property from the kulaks, to eliminate the kulak asset by imprisonment in concentration camps or execution, to expel all wealthy peasants to remote areas of the USSR immediately.

AUGUST 18, 1930

The government of the RSFSR adopted the resolution “On measures to conduct special colonization in the northern and Siberian territories and the Ural region,” which indicated the need to use the workforce of special migrants primarily in forestry, fisheries, and other industries.

JULY 1, 1931

The government of the USSR adopted the resolution “On the structure of special settlers,” according to which all special settlements were transferred to the OGPU and the GULAG.

OCTOBER 25, 1931

The OGPU approved the “Temporary provision on the rights and obligations of special settlers.” For “managing special settlers and for the organization of their work and everyday life” Commandant’s Offices of the OGPU were created in special settlements.



From the end of the 1920s, under the direction of the Secretary of the TsK VKP(b) I. Stalin the process of unification of individual peasant farms into collective farms began. The goal of continuous collectivization was to establish full state control over village and agricultural products. The struggle against the kulaks accompanied collectivization. Thousands of peasant families were deprived of property, expelled from their homes. Since 1930, the mass eviction of dispossessed peasants to remote areas of the country to special settlements began, which created a particular social stratum — special settlers (or labor settlers).

1. Special settlers at an apatite mine. Murmansk region, the 1930s. Kirov History and Local Lore Museum
[Read more about the use of the labor force of special settlers on page 32](#)

2. Tents of special settlers in Khibinogorsk (now Kirovsk, Murmansk region). 1930. Kirov History and Local Lore Museum
[Read more about the organization of work and life of special settlers on page 30](#)

3. Poster “We will knock out kulaks from collective farms.” Moscow-Leningrad, 1930. GA RF

4. A still from the film “The expropriation of Chernov — a resident of the village of Novo-Pokrovskaya (Northern Caucasus).” 1929. RGAKFD

**DETAILED BY THE SPECIAL SETTLEMENTS AGENCY
OF THE GULAG, DURING THE 1930–1931
OVER 381,000 PEASANT FAMILIES WERE EVICTED,
WHICH AMOUNTS TO 1,803,392 PEOPLE.**

“Then these people confiscated our property, which consisted of 2 sheep and one heifer, and all the attire, like beds and other village things, and even took me off the little yellow dress made from my mother's skirt, and all this was loaded and we were taken away, and we remained in our birthday suit.”

FROM THE MEMOIRS OF K. DUBOVITSKAYA (TAMBOV REGION)

“In one morning, the whole village of the Belarusian woodlands turned out to be like a disturbed anthill. All residents, young and old, gathered near our hut to see us off to unknown lands, many were voting, lamenting, weeping... they allowed us to take only the clothes we were wearing and a small supply of food... there were four of us dressed in self-draped clothes and shod in bast shoes, they put us on a cart, and two armed policemen on another (cart) for our guards. in case we run away...”

FROM MEMOIRS OF N. PAVLOV

“They took us on the railway by a whole train. How many days we drove, I do not remember. In the carriage, seven people died of starvation. We arrived at the city of Tomsk... From Tomsk, we were sent to a pier and loaded onto a barge, and sailed along the Chulym River... they unloaded us at a pier, and we walked about seven kilometers... On the way, two of our children died. They threw us there — live as you wish! Father and his brother made a dugout, which accommodated five families. Father's brother, along with his wife and three children died... Our four children also died. Father, mother and I remained in the by dugout...”

FROM MEMOIRS OF N. AVERYANOVA



5. A dispossessed family near their house in the village Udachnoye of Donetsk region. The 1930s.

AS OF JANUARY 1, 1950, 460,032 SPECIAL SETTLERS CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE WERE REGISTERED AT RESETTLEMENT PLACES FOR THE REPRESSED POPULATION. 368,089 (80%) ENROLLED IN PRIMARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS, 91,943 (20%) WERE NOT ENGAGED IN THE LEARNING PROCESS.

“... the condition of the newly arrived echelons is unsatisfactory... in most echelons, we noted:

- 1) high mortality and morbidity from typhus, acute gastric diseases, and even smallpox;
- 2) a lot of emaciated, old people who can not be completely used;
- 3) lice epidemics...”

FROM THE REPORT OF THE HEAD OF THE GULAG OGPU M. BERMAN. JUNE 1933

“As of October 1, there are 10,000 families in Magnitogorsk — 42,462 people, of which there are 15,000 children. [...] special settlers are housed in four special settlements, separately from free workers, at a distance of between 2 and 6 km from the site...”

Moreover, by the time of the survey, there were 7,500 people living in tents in the central and calcareous villages. The rest are put in common barracks with a capacity of up to 200–250 people on common bunks. It is extremely crowded.

Most of the barracks are extremely dirty because overcrowding. Especially these harsh, difficult accommodation conditions affect children...”

FROM THE REPORT OF THE SUPERVISORS OF THE INSPECTION, CONDUCTED BY M. BERMAN AND Y. FIGATNER, “ON THE CONDITIONS OF SPECIAL SETTLERS IN MAGNITOGORSK” AS OF OCTOBER 5, 1931

1.



2.



3.



1. Tents of special settlers in Khibinogorsk (now Kirovsk, Murmansk region). 1930. Kirov History and Local Lore Museum

2, 3. Barrack and kitchen of a settlement for 16 km. Khibinogorsk, 1940. Kirov History and Local Lore Museum

4. Children of special settlers at school. Khibinogorsk, the 1930s. Kirov History and Local Lore Museum

“As we have already noted, children are in dire straits. The only pediatrician available there describes the situation of children this way: ‘When you walk through the barracks, everywhere, at every step, you come across children lying with diarrhea, measles, inflammation of lungs; whooping cough comes from different corners, there are children with jaundice, there are undiagnosed patients with typhoid fever, both among children and adults. The rest of the children, still darting along the bunks and aisles, in the vast majority are emaciated, without color in the face, weakened. They are candidates for a serious infection, and possibly for a quick death. When I had checked out these children, they were, mostly, healthy, strong children. The destruction of their health goes fast. If rapid measures are not taken, at least for some improvement of the situation of children, then 50% of them will die. At least 80% of children are sick at the moment.’”

FROM THE REPORT OF THE SUPERVISORS OF THE INSPECTION OF THE CONDITIONS OF CHILDREN IN SPECIAL SETTLEMENTS OF MAGNITOGORSK, CONDUCTED BY M. BERMAN AND Y. FIGANTER, AS OF OCTOBER 5, 1931

“The main reason for the incomplete enrollment of children is the lack of proper clothing and footwear. Due to the onset of the winter, a significant number of children stopped attending schools as they have no clothes and shoes. At the same time, in many Kazakh schools servicing special settlements, Russian classes are absent. Therefore, children of evicted special settlers, who do not speak Kazakh, refuse to study in these schools.”

FROM THE REPORT OF THE HEAD OF THE SPECIAL SETTLEMENTS OF THE MVD USSR V. SHIYAN TO THE MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS S. KRUGLOV, AS OF DECEMBER 22, 1949.

4.



FORCED LABOR OF SPECIAL SETTLERS WAS USED IN DIFFERENT BRANCHES OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY, BUT MOST COMMONLY IN THOSE WHICH REQUIRED HARD AND LOW-PAID WORK.

1,472,232 SPECIAL SETTLERS WERE INVOLVED IN WORKS IN DIFFERENT AREAS OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY AS FOR JANUARY 1, 1951.

2,819,776 SPECIAL SETTLERS WERE ACCOUNTED AT SPECIAL COMMANDMENT S SERVICE OF THE MVD USSR AS FOR JANUARY 1, 1953.

HARD FORCED LABOR, THE ABSENCE OF THE MOST BASIC LIVING CONDITIONS LED TO A HIGH MORTALITY RATE AMONG SPECIAL SETTLERS, WHICH RAISED UP TO 30% IN SEVERAL REGIONS.

"IN 1930–1931 130,613 SPECIAL SETTLERS WERE TRANSFERRED TO THE SYSTEM OF THE URAL TRUSTS "ZAPADNOLES" ("WESTERN FOREST") AND "SVERDLES" ("SVERDLOVSKY FOREST"). BY THE YEAR 1934, 31,240 OF THEM HAVE DIED. OUT OF 12,184 SPECIAL SETTLERS AT NYROBSKY DISTRICT OF THE SVERDLOVSK REGION, 3,853 PEOPLE DIED. OUT OF 17,312 SPECIAL SETTLERS AT THE KRASNOVISHERSKY REGION, 6,300 PEOPLE DIED.

1.



1, 3. Construction of the Kirov railway. 1930
Kirov History and Local Lore Museum

2. Special settlers at an apatite mine. Murmansk region, the 1930s.
Kirov History and Local Lore Museum

Sending large masses of people to the special settlements solved the problem of the development of uninhabited and sparsely inhabited areas of the country, which was faced by the state policy.

The resolution of the SNK RSFSR as of August 18, 1930 “On measures to conduct special colonization in the northern and Siberian territories and the Ural region” indicated:

“To recognize the following in the course of colonization:

a) make the most of the workforce of special settlers in forestry, fishing and other fields in remote areas in need of labor and

b) to occupy only those special immigrants whose labor force cannot be used in forestry and fisheries in agriculture...”

Evictions were carried out in an unusually inhumane way. People were usually brought to a deserted place and left there. In winter, those who did not take axes, saws, and shovels had little chances of survival. Owners of tools constructed dugouts and “settled down.” That is how the first special settlements appeared.

Able-bodied men and teenagers were immediately escorted in batches to the areas of their forthcoming place of work and residence — mainly for logging, rafting, and construction of special settlements. The others were temporarily accommodated in ruined churches, adapted premises, tent-type barracks, dugouts.

In the early 1930s, the main object of exploitation by the state was not prisoners, but special settlers (mostly peasants), whose number in that period was several times larger than the number of camp convicts.

Forced labor of special settlers was actively used in the camp economy throughout the years of existence of the GULAG. At any moment, a family of special settlers could be moved from one district to another, while no one was interested, that people have to abandon their hard-earned possessions. No one cared about normal living conditions for special settlers.



MASS EVICTIONS FROM THE BORDER AREAS OF THE USSR: DURING THE PERIOD OF THE STALIN GOVERNMENT, THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE, SUBJECTED TO FORCED MIGRATIONS ON THE TERRITORY OF THE USSR, EXCEEDED 6 MILLION PEOPLE.

The eviction of the “kulak element” with its sending to a special settlement was carried out in subsequent years. From the second half of the 1930s, mass evictions from the border zones of the USSR began. “Border stripping” was carried out mainly on the ethnic principle. Among those who were deported along ethnic lines were Finns, Poles, Koreans, Kurds, Iranians, Meskhetian Turks, and citizens of other nationalities.

On the eve of the war, over 85 thousand people of the so-called “anti-Soviet elements” were evicted from Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Moldova, Western Ukraine, and Western Belarus. All of them were exiled to a special settlement.

In 1943–1944, so-called “punished populations” were sent to special settlements. The Germans, Karachai, Kalmyks, Ingush, Chechens, Balkarians and Crimean Tatars were subjected to total deportation, which makes up about 2 million people.

“Believe me, that nothing German (I am speaking about myself now) remained in me. After all, we were crucified on the cross of Stalin repressions twice, tried to hide everything that is connected with the nationality and the social status. In 1935, they arrested Dad. We have become children of the ‘enemy of the nation’. And until 1941, we were persecuted as politically unreliable. It brought us to Kazakhstan. And in 1941 we were persecuted by nationality too. Shall not bring God to you, our children, to experience the humiliation we experienced. All doors were closed for us: Pioneers, Komsomol, the Party; the permanent check-ins in special Commandant's Offices, the impossibility of leaving (threatened with a prison term of up to 25 years), and hence the impossibility of going to school. After all, I graduated from 10 classes, but I could not leave Aktobe. And there was the Kazakhstan Pedagogical Institute and the medical school. So I finished it out of need (by the way, with distinction) in 1949. In 1948 my mother was sent to Aralsk, but I was ‘not taken’, since by this time I was about 18 years old. and Stalin said: ‘Children are not responsible for parents.’ I was left alone — without an apartment, without money (we never had them), on the 2nd year of a medical school with a meager scholarship.”

FROM A LETTER BY I. PORGREBANYAK (VAGNER) TO HER NIECE. THE MID-1990S

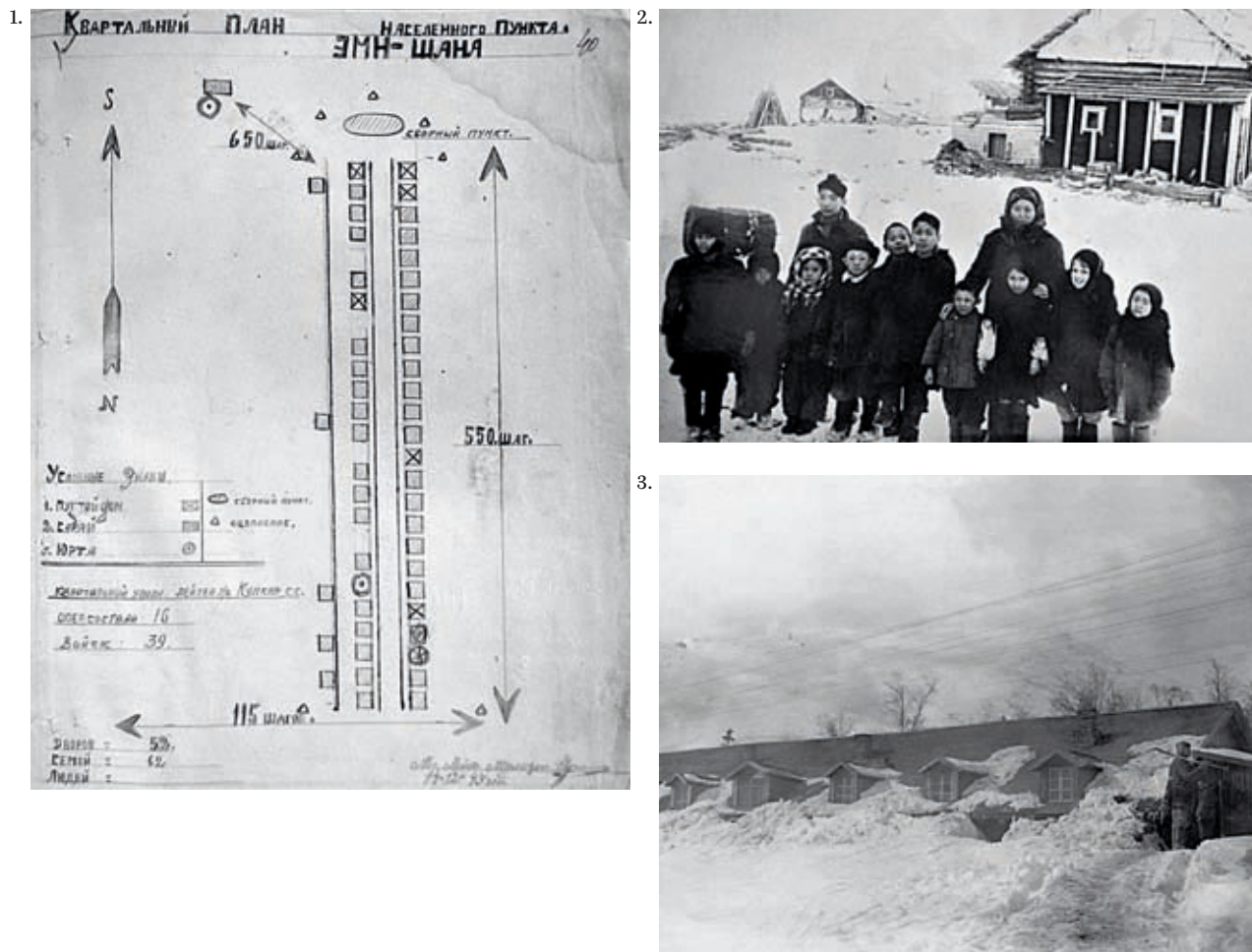
“In the first year in Issyk-Kul, there were many corpses. Sometimes we walked on them. We lived in the barracks, and in the first winter, every day someone died. The corpses were taken out and put at the walls of the barracks, they froze and stood like a log. It happened, that you stumble upon them.”

FROM THE MEMOIRS OF N. ULANOVA, A KALMYK DEPORTEE

“On December 28, 1943, before dawn, soldiers with lanterns appeared in all the houses of our village at the same time. It was said: ‘Get together, you are sent to Siberia.’ They gave us 10–15 minutes to get ready. We took only warm clothes, we had no food in the house. They gathered everyone at the school, then took to the station, placed on wagons, which transported cattle. We were fed, every day they brought a bucket of soup, sometimes there was herring in it. At stops, soldiers shouted: ‘Are there any corpses? Are there any corpses?’”

FROM MEMOIRS OF R. GUNGEEVA (BORN 1937), A KALMYK DEPORTEE

In 1948, the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the USSR adopted an order, according to which the unauthorized absence (escape) of special settlers evicted during the war years was punished with 20 years of hard labor. In subsequent years, its effect was also extended to several other categories of special settlers.



1. The plan of the cordons of the settlement during the deportation of Kalmyks. December 1943. IC of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in the Republic of Kalmykia

2. Kalmyks in Siberia. National Museum of the Republic of Kalmykia named after Palmov

3. A dugout in the mountain village. October 1930. Kirov History and Local Lore Museum



Several families of repressed Germans with their belongings. Village Akrab of Aktope region, 1938. Text on the back: "On the road." A photo from the family archive of A. Makeev



СПИСОК № 3.

Места ссылки.

- 1) Коми АССР.
- 2) Кировская область.
- 3) Омская область — районы, расположенные в 50 км. к северу от железной дороги.
- 4) Красноярский край — районы, расположенные в 50 км к северу от железной дороги.
- 5) Новосибирская область — районы, расположенные в 50 км к северу от железной дороги.
- 6) Кара-Калпакская АССР.
- 7) Узбекская ССР — Хорезмская область.
- 8) Казахская ССР — Актюбинская, Гурьевская, Западно-Казахстанская, Карагандинская, Кызыл-Ордынская, Кустанайская, Павлодарская, Северо-Казахстанская и Южно-Казахстанская области.
- 9) Якутская АССР.
- 10) Калмыцкая АССР.
- 11) Марийская АССР.
- 12) Чкаловская область.
- 13) Башкирская АССР.

1. From the order of the Commissar of Internal Affairs of the USSR "On administrative exile and expulsion." June 1, 1939. GA RF

2. A page from the Report note by supervisors of the Inspection, conducted by M. Berman and Y. Figatner, "On the state of special settlers in Magnitogorsk." October 5, 1931. GA RF

9
- 1 -

Медико-санитарное состояние.

Санитарное состояние надо признать явно неудовлетворительным, а медицинское обслуживание недостаточным. Основной причиной является исключительно тяжелые жилищные условия: отсутствие бань, прачечных, оборудованных больниц, амбулаторий и недостаток медперсонала. Всего имеется 5 врачей и 21 фельдшер. На центральном поселке имеется больница на 150 коек и только что открыта больница в известковом поселке. Больницы не оборудованы и производят тяжелое впечатление. Остальные поселки обслуживаются 2 фельдшерскими пунктами и выездными врачами. С 1 сентября в Магнитогорске находится санитарный поезд Уральского Облздрава, имеющий 7 врачей и 30 чел. среднего медперсонала. Стим поездом производится огромная профилактическая работа. В центральном поселке открыта аптека.

Положение детей.

Как мы уже отмечали, себе в тяжелом положении находятся дети. Единственный детский врач, имеющийся там, так описывает положение детей:

"Когда проходишь по баракам, то всюду, на каждом шагу, наталкиваешься на лежалых с поносами, корью, воспалением легких, детей; из разных углов доносятся конкилиный кашель, лежат дети с желтухой; лежат и, несомненно, нераспознанные больные брюшным тифом, как среди детей, так и взрослых. Остальные дети, иннервация еще по ногам и проходам, в общей толкоте, в громадном большинстве резко истощены, без кровинки в лице, ослабшие, - кандидаты на тяжелую инфекцию, а, возможно, и на скорую смерть. Когда мне приходилось принимать этих детей, это были, в большинстве своем, здоровые, крепкие дети. Разрушение их здоровья идет быстро и нет сомнения, что, если не будут приняты быстрые меры, хотя бы к некоторому улучшению положения детей, то погибнет из них в течение ближайших месяцев, конечно, не 7%, а 50%. В настоящее время больных детей имеется не менее 80 %."

По данным Магнитогорского Горздраотдела, по одному центральному поселку мы имеем следующую картину детской

СОВ. СЕКРЕТНО

234
Секретно

ВС-8

СПРАВКАо количестве спецпоселенцев, используемых на
работах в отраслях народного х-вапо состоянию на 1/1-1951г.

1.	Министерство сельского хозяйства	-	490929
2.	Министерство угольной промышлен.	-	146444
3.	"- лесной и бумаги.пром.	-	133081
4.	"- Внутренних дел	-	131355
5.	"- Союзхозов	-	104837
6.	"- Хлопководства	-	63187
7.	"- Местной промышлен.	-	49300
8.	"- Metallург. промышлен.	-	39337
9.	"- строительства предприятий тяжелой индустрии	-	28701
10.	"- Нефтяной промышлен.	-	26478
11.	"- пищевой промышлен.	-	24440
12.	"- Путей сообщения	-	22635
13.	"- Легкой промышленности	-	19357
14.	"- промышлен. стройматериалов	-	10898
15.	"- Рыбной промышленности	-	10627
16.	Другие министерства, а также госу- дарств. и советские учреждения	-	170576
			<hr/>
ВСЕГО:			- 1.472.232 чел.

НАЧАЛЬНИК 4 ОТ-НИЯ 3 ОТДЕЛА 9 УПРАВЛЕНИЯ МГБ СССР
М а й о р*И. Курочкин*
И. КУРОЧКИН /

" 28" января 1952г.

3. The certificate on the number of special settlers used at work in the branches of the national economy as of January 1, 1951. January 28, 1952. GA RF

4. The certificate on the number of special settlers who were registered in the bodies of the NKVD-MVD, and those who were expelled, exiled, as of January of each year. June 24, 1953. GA RF

ИИ-8

Совсемно секретно ³СПРАВКА

о количестве состоящих на учете в органах НКВД-
МВД спецпоселенцев, высланных, осмыльных и осмыльно-
поселенцев.

стояло на января как- ого года	В с е г о	Вновь направ- лено на спец- поселение	На сколько умень- шилось количест. состоящих на учете	На сколько увеличилось количество состоящих на учете
1932 год	1.317.022	Сведений нет	-	-
1933 год	1.142.084	"-	174.938	-
1934 год	1.072.546	"-	69.538	-
1935 год	973.693	"-	98.853	-
1936 год	1.058.905	"-	-	85.212
1937 год	916.787	"-	142.118	-
1938 год	877.651	"-	39.136	-
1939 год	938.552	"-	-	60.901
1940 год	997.513	"-	-	58.961
1941 год	977.110	770.943	20.403	-
1942 год	1.682.659	20.897	-	705.549
1943 год	сведений нет	700.668	-	-
1944 год	1.938.539	330.763	-	255.880
1945 год	2.094.562	-	-	156.023
1946 год	2.264.749	255.198	-	170.187
1947 год	2.280.542	-	-	15.793
1948 год	2.243.989	89.261	36.553	-
1949 год	2.309.898	221.231	-	65.903
1950 год	2.660.040	43.063	-	350.142
1951 год	2.683.046	45.433	-	23.006
1952 год	2.797.678	22.599	-	114.632
1953 год	2.819.776	-	-	22.098

ПРИМЕЧАНИЕ: В 1950-1952 годах снято с учета спецпоселения
136.002 чел., в том числе: "власовцев" - 93.446, быв-
ших кулаков - 42.556.

ЗАМ НАЧАЛЬНИКА ОТДЕЛЕНИЯ
М а И о р

" 24 " июня 1953 г.

М. М. Мухоморов

/МУХОМОР/

Без публикации.

№ 133/12.

УКАЗ ПРЕЗИДИИ ВЕРХОВОЙ РАДЫ СРСР
УКАЗ ПРЕЗИДИУМА ВЕРХОВНОГО СОВЕТА СССР
СССР ОДНИ СОВЕТИ ПРЕЗИДИУМИНИИ ФОРМАНИ
СССР ЖОГОРЖЫ СОВЕТИ ПРЕЗИДИУМИНЫИ УКАЗЫ
ՀԱՅՏԱՆԻՍԻ ԵՎ ԵՐԱՅԱՆ ԶԻՅՈՒՄԻ ԱՄԵՐ ԶԵՐՈՒՄԻՆԻ
ՍՏՐԻ ԱՆԻ ՍՈՎԵՏԻ ԲՐԱՏՈՒ ԿԵՂՕՒՄԻՆԻ ՖՈՐՄԱՆԻ
ՄԻՅՍ ԱՆԻՍՏԻՄԱՆՈՍՅՈՍ ԿԱՐԿՈՍ ՔՐԵԶԻՍԻՈՒ ՄԱՍԻՆ
УКАЗУ ПРЕЗИДИУМУЛУЙ СОВЕТУЛУЙ СУПРЕМ АН УССР



ՔՐԿՍ ԱՍԵՏԻՄԱՆ ԲԱԴՈՄԵՍ ՔՐԵԶԻՍԻԱ ԵՎՔԵՏՍ
СССР ЖОГОРЖЫ СОВЕТНИИ ПРЕЗИДИУМУЛУИ УКАЗЫ
УКАЗИ ПРЕЗИДИУМИ СОВЕТИ ОДНИ СССР
ԱՄԵՐ ԿԵՂՕՒՄԻ ՍԵՂՔՐ ԵՆՈՒՄԻՆԻՍԵՐ ԿՐԵԶԻՍԻՈՒ
ՍՏՐԻ ԵՎԱՐԿՍ ՍՈՎԵՏԻՆԻՍ ՔՐԵԶԻՍԻՄԻՆԻՍ ՄԱՍԻՆ
ՄՍՄԼ ՕՒԼԵՆՆՈՒԿՈՍՈՒ ՔՐԵԶԻՍԻՈՒՄԻ ՅԵԱԼՈՍ
ՅՈՒԼԻՆ ԿՈՐԿԵՆԻՄԱՆ ՆԵՍՏՈՍՏԻ ՄԻՆԵՄԻՆԻՍՏԻՆ ԱՍԵՏՍ

УКАЗ ПРЕЗИДИУМА ВЕРХОВНОГО СОВЕТА СССР

**Об уголовной ответственности за побег из мест
обязательного и постоянного поселения лиц, вы-
селенных в отдаленные районы Советского Союза
в период Отечественной войны.**

В целях укрепления режима поселения для выселенных Верховным органом СССР в период Отечественной войны чеченцев, карачаевцев, ингушей, балкарцев, калмыков, немцев, крымских татар и др., а так- же в связи с тем, что во время их переселения не были определены сроки их высылки, установить, что переселение в отдаленные районы Советского Союза указанных выше лиц проведено навечно, без права возврата их к прежним местам жительства.

За самовольный выезд (побег) из мест обязательного поселения этих выселенцев виновные подлежат привлечению к уголовной ответст- венности. Определить меру наказания за это преступление в 20 лет каторжных работ.

Дела в отношении побегов выселенцев рассматриваются в Особом Совещании при Министерстве внутренних дел СССР.

Лиц, виновных в укрывательстве выселенцев, бежавших из мест обязательного поселения, или способствовавших их побегу, лиц, ви- новных в выдаче разрешения выселенцам на возврат их в места их прежнего жительства, и лиц, оказывавших им помощь в устройстве их в местах прежнего жительства, привлекать к уголовной ответственно- сти. Определить меру наказания за эти преступления - лишение сво- боды на срок 5 лет.

Председатель Президиума
Верховного Совета СССР -
(Н. Шверник)

Секретарь Президиума
Верховного Совета СССР -
(А. Горкин)

Москва, Кремль.
26 ноября 1948г.

д.№ 111/45.

5. The decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR "On criminal liability for escapes from places of obligatory and permanent settlement of persons evicted to remote areas of the Soviet Union during the period of the Patriotic War." November 26, 1948. GA RF

6. A route list of a special settler. 1953. National Museum of the Republic of Kalmykia named after N. Palmov

Маршрутный лист № 308

57-43-

Действителен по 1^{ое} февраля 1953 г.
(указать число и месяц)

Калининой Селики Лукьяновны, 1928 года
рождения, разрешен выезд из Новосибирской обл.

(указать республику, край, область)

Колымовский р-н, Омск обл.; который к месту жи-
тельства должен следовать только через _____

Багабинск - Омск

(указать города и основные железнодорожные станции)

При отклонении от указанного маршрута настоящий лист
теряет силу, а владелец его подлежит задержанию.

По прибытии к месту назначения Калининой
(фамилия)

обязан немедленно явиться в орган МВД.

Зин Начальник Управления МВД
по Новосибирской области

Коновалов

Коновалов

5 января 1953 г.

М. П.

1231

CHAPTER 4. CAMP SYSTEM

IN 1929–1930, ON THE TERRITORY OF THE USSR A NETWORK OF CAMPS FORMED. THEY ACQUIRED THE OFFICIAL NAME OF “CORRECTIVE-LABOR CAMPS” (ITL). IN 1930, CHIEF ADMINISTRATION OF CORRECTIVE-LABOR CAMPS — GULAG — WAS CREATED.

CHRONOLOGY:

JULY 11, 1929

The government ordered the OGPU to organize several new large camps in remote areas of the Soviet Union to settle these areas and exploit their natural resources.

APRIL 7, 1930

The “Provision on labor camps” was approved, according to which persons sentenced by a court to imprisonment for at least 3 years, as well as persons convicted extrajudicially, were sent to ITLs.

APRIL 25, 1930

The Administration of Camps was established as part of the OGPU to manage the activities of the camps. It was transformed into the Chief Administration of Camps (GULAG).

JULY 10, 1934

The NKVD of the USSR was formed; it included the Chief Administration of the State Security (formerly OGPU), the Chief Administration of Corrective-Labor Camps and several other bodies.

JUNE 11, 1943

In the GULAG system, the organization of hard labor units for persons convicted of aiding the enemy during the war began.

FEBRUARY 28, 1948

The organization of special camps for persons recognized as “especially dangerous state criminals” began in the MVD system of the USSR.

OCTOBER 25, 1956

The government has recognized the continued existence of labor camps in the country as inexpedient. The Chief Administration of Corrective-Labor Camps and Colonies was reorganized into the Chief Administration of Corrective-Labor Colonies of the MVD USSR.



In 1929–1930, a network of camps formed on the territory of the USSR, which acquired the official name of “corrective-labor camps” (ITL). People, who were sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than three years, as well as persons convicted extrajudicially, were sent to such new places of detention. The OGPU was in charge of the camps, under which the Chief Administration of Corrective-Labor Camps — GULAG — was established in 1930.

2, 3. The convicts of the brick factory № 2, Vorkutinsky ITL, 1945. GA RF

[Read more about the detention of convicts, who were sentenced to hard labor in the NKVD camps on pages 46–50](#)

1, 5. Exterior view of the fence of a camp post. Pechorsky ITL. GA RF

4. The view of the camp gate. Vorkutinsky ITL, inscription on the gate: “Labor in the USSR is a matter of honor, a matter of glory, a matter of valor and heroism!” — a quote from the speech of I. Stalin at the XVI Congress of the VKP(b) in 1930. GA RF

**IN 1940, THE GULAG INCORPORATED:
53 CAMPS WITH OVER 600 CAMP DIVISIONS
AND FACILITIES;
425 CORRECTIVE-LABOR COLONIES;
50 COLONIES FOR JUVENILES;
90 “HOUSES FOR INFANTS” FOR CHILDREN
OF IMPRISONED MOTHERS;
162 RECEPTION CENTERS FOR NEGLECTED CHILDREN.
BY JANUARY 1, 1941, 1,876,834 CONVICTS WERE
IN CORRECTIVE-LABOR CAMPS AND COLONIES,
555,589 (29.6%) OF WHICH WERE SERVING
THE SENTENCE FOR COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY
CRIMES.**

By the end of the 1930s — the beginning of the 1940s, there was a tendency in the GULAG system to disaggregate large-scale camp formations. Camps got a clear sectoral focus. Major “camp giants” such as Bamlag, Ukhtpechlag, were split into smaller ones. Such transformations of the camp system were associated with problems of the managerial nature and with economic inexpediency of maintaining such camps.

Along with the GULAG in the structure of the NKVD of the USSR, there were other Chief Administrations of the camps of: forest industry, railway construction, industrial construction, mining and metallurgical enterprises and several others. Most of them were formed in the 1940s on the basis of the departments of the GULAG. Specialized camp-production departments had dozens of camp units with hundreds of thousands of prisoners under their control. To date, Russian historians have identified and described 476 camp complexes that existed in different years in the territory of the USSR.

4.



5.



“The camp can only bring up an aversion to work. That is what happens in reality. Never and anywhere the camp has taught labor. In the camps, there is nothing worse, more offensive than deadly heavy physical servitude. There is nothing more cynical than an inscription that hangs on the pediments of all the camp zones: Labor is a matter of honor, a matter of glory, a matter of valor and heroism!”

FROM THE LETTER BY V. SHALAMOV TO A. SOLZHENITSYN, 1964

In the midst of the war, following the April decree of 1943, which imposed hard labor as a punishment, the NKVD began to organize hard labor camp divisions. A particularly strict regime was applied to hard labor convicts, they were used for particularly heavy work in mines, an extended working day was introduced. The convicts wore special clothes with numbers, which distinguished them from other prisoners, and had no right to change them. By September 1947, the number of all hard labor convicts of the GULAG exceeded 60 thousand.

“In accordance with the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the USSR as of April 19, ‘On penalties for German-fascist villains, spies, and traitors of the Motherland and their accomplices’

I order:

1. To organize hard labor units in the following camps:

Vorkuta camp, for 10,000 people to use in work on the construction of new coal mines and underground work in existing mines.

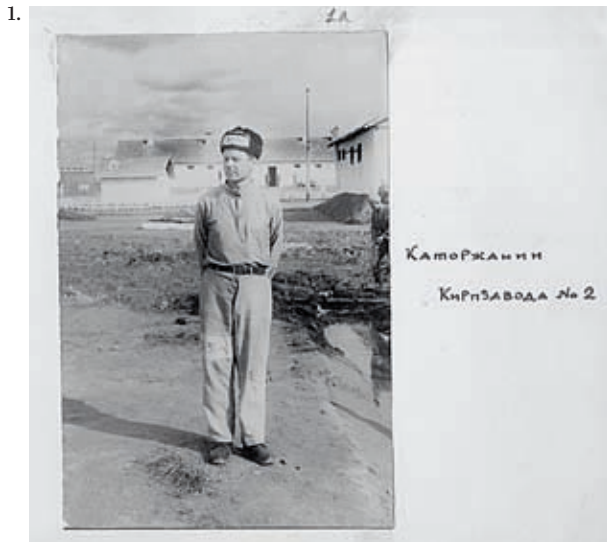
Norilsk camp, for 10,000 people to use in work in mines, quarries, and brick factories.

Sevvostlag (Dalstroy), for 10,000 people to use work in gold and tin mining.

2. To create a hard labor unit within Karlag NKVD for the disabled and sick persons sentenced to hard labor.

[...] To ensure the security, internal order and organization of work in accordance with the attached instruction.”

**FROM THE ORDER OF THE NARKOM OF THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE USSR
ON THE ORGANIZATION OF HARD LABOR UNITS IN THE ITLs OF THE NKVD
AS OF JUNE 11, 1943**



“It would seem, what is special about the rags with the numbers sewn on the dress? But these rags took away our first and last names, age, turned us into branded cattle, in inventory, and maybe worse, because a numbered chair continues to be called a chair, branded cattle has a nickname, and we could only respond to the number from now on. A severe punishment awaited for lack of the number on the set place.”

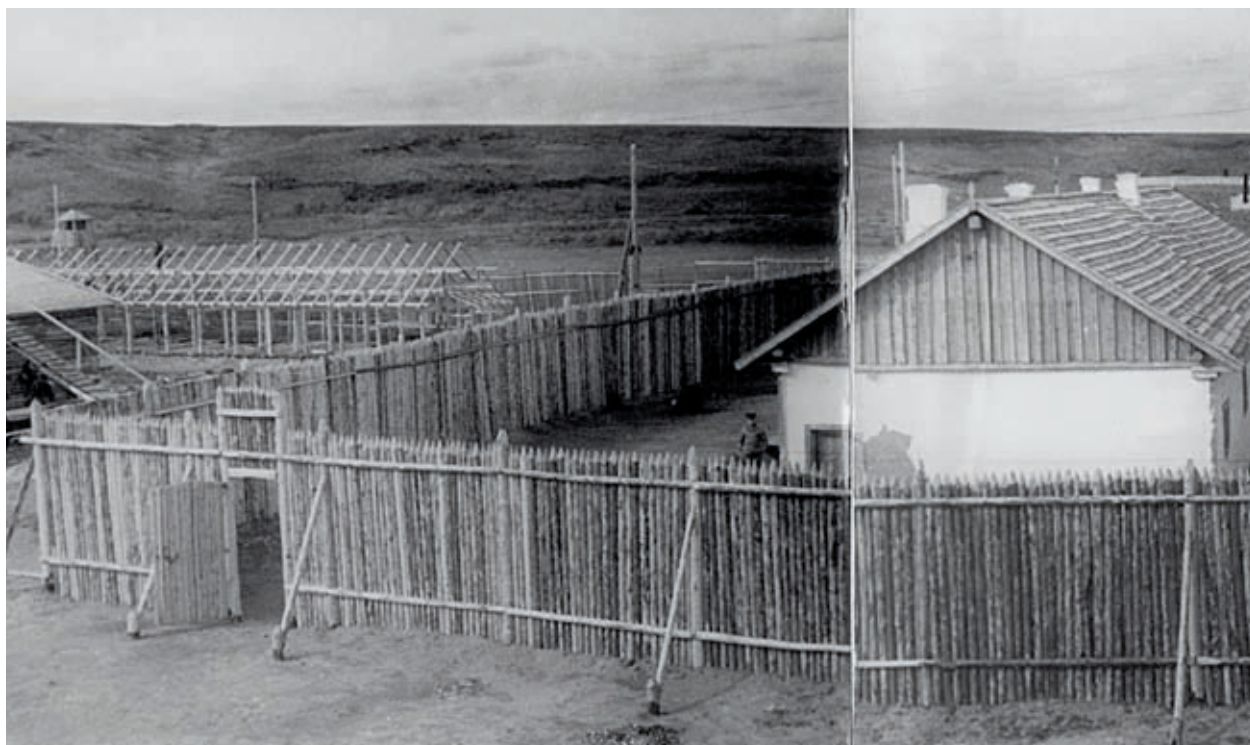
“The total information hunger, alienation from books, magazines, newspapers, radio was painful. We were kind of moved to the prehistoric era when there was no written language yet.”

FROM MEMOIRS OF THE FORMER HARD LABOR CONVICT E. MARKOVA

“THE PERSONS SENTENCED TO HARD LABOR ARE SUBJECT TO BE ACCOMMODATED SEPARATELY FROM OTHER CAMPERS IN THE SPECIAL BARRACKS WITH BARS ON WINDOWS. BARRACKS OF CONVICTS SHOULD BE LOCKED AND GUARDED BY GUNMEN. BARRACKS OF HARD LABOR PRISONERS SHOULD BE SEPARATED FROM THE REST OF THE CAMP ZONE BY A HIGH FENCE.”

FROM THE INSTRUCTION ON THE DETENTION OF PERSONS SENTENCED TO HARD LABOR IN THE NKVD CAMPS AS OF JUNE 5, 1943

3.



3. “Barracks of hard labor prisoners should be separated from the rest of the camp zone by a high fence” (from the Instruction on the detention of persons sentenced to hard labor). Regime zone of the brick factory № 2. Vorkutinsky ITL, 1945. GA RF

1, 2. Convicts of the brick factory № 2. Vorkutinsky ITL, 1945. GA RF



Cable laying by hard labor
convicts of Vorkutinsky ITL.
1945. GA RF



“2. To establish clothing of special design and color with a patch with the personal number of a convict sewn to the top garment.

[...]

5. For convicts sentenced to hard labor, the following conditions of work are established:

a) the duration of the working day is set at 1 hour above the camp standard;
b) convicts are always taken to work under reinforced escort;

[...]

d) hard labor convicts are primarily involved in all particularly heavy labor.

6. For refusal to work, for failure to comply with the standard of work, for violation of the regime and failure to execute orders of the administration, the following types of penalties are imposed:

a) extension of the working day to 2 additional hours and transfer to more difficult work;

b) transfer to solitary confinement for up to 20 days;

c) arrest and criminal prosecution with the consideration of cases at a special meeting of the Special Board of the NKVD USSR.”

FROM THE INSTRUCTION ON THE DETENTION OF PERSONS SENTENCED TO HARD LABOR AS OF JUNE 5, 1943

“The lack of sanitary conditions, overwork, and half-starved existence led to the fact that after a few months the groups arrived from the outside turned into disabled people and soon almost all of them died out. Many convicts died in mines from accidents that occurred daily. There was no safety and mechanization. No one received at least some elementary training for work under the ground, which requires special knowledge and skill. Everything was decided very simply: they brought the new group and sent them to work underground on the same day, including women. After all, the new ones were still capable of at least some work!”

E. MARKOVA. NOTES OF A HARD LABOR CONVICT IN VORKUTA “E105”

1.



2.



1. Convicts' dormitory.
The Directorate of the
Corrective-Labor Colonies
of the Moscow region.
1944. GA RF

2. Male dormitory.
Privolzhsky ITL, 1942-1943.
GA RF

236,523 OF “PARTICULARLY HARMFUL STATE CRIMINALS” WERE KEPT IN SPECIAL CAMPS AS FOR JULY 1, 1951. THE MOST NUMEROUS GROUP AMONG THE CONVICTS IN SUCH CAMPS WAS “NATIONALISTS” — 89,114 PEOPLE (37.7% OF THE TOTAL NUMBER). OVER 2.5 MILLION PEOPLE WERE CONTAINED IN CAMPS, COLONIES, AND PRISONS AS FOR JANUARY 1, 1953. 539,483 PEOPLE OF THAT NUMBER (21.9%) WERE CONVICTED OF COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY CRIMES. MORE THAN 761 THOUSAND OF THEM WERE SENTENCED TO TERM FROM 10 TO 25 YEARS.

From the beginning of 1948, the Soviet leadership began an intensive reorganization of the entire repressive system. On January 27, Stalin received a document that significantly influenced the fate of hundreds of thousands of prisoners. “Under your instructions,” the Minister of State Security V. Abakumov and Minister of Internal Affairs N. Kruglov reported to Stalin, — we present the draft decision of the TsK VKP(b) on the organization of camps and prisons with a strict regime for the detention of particularly harmful state criminals and on sending them to settle in remote areas of the USSR upon completion of their sentence. We ask for your decision.”

“... for the detention of spies, saboteurs, terrorists, Trotskyists, right-wing, Mensheviks, Social Revolutionaries, anarchists, nationalists, white emigrants and participants of other anti-Soviet organizations and groups and persons dangerous for their anti-Soviet ties and hostile activities:

2. [...] to establish a strict regime in special camps, prohibiting the implementation of reduction of sentences and other benefits for convicts held in these camps;

to use able-bodied prisoners predominantly in heavy physical work;

4. [...] All convicts who have served their sentences in special camps upon expiry of their sentence, in accordance with the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR as of February 21, 1948, should be sent to the settlement under the supervision of the MGB USSR upon its designation.”

FROM THE ORDER ON THE ORGANIZATION OF THE STRICT REGIME CAMPS AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 1948

“For hard work, they took everyone indiscriminately: both young and old. And what is interesting is that they didn't ask for any norms or plans. They didn't punish non-compliance and did not encourage over-fulfillment. Just ten hours of forced work till you drop. There were many prisoners, and it often happened that there was not enough work for everyone. Then they forced us to engage in labors of Sisyphus: to do something unnecessary, useless, to keep hands busy.”

FROM MEMOIRS OF A FORMER CONVICT K. VOLOVICH



Patients in the reception and distribution ward at the sanitary station for the convicts. Vorkutinsky IITL, 1945. GA RF



Less than a month later, the project approved by Stalin was drafted as a secret decree of the Council of Ministers. It ordered to establish a strict detention regime in special camps and prisons, to prohibit all benefits, and instructed to use all able-bodied convicts for heavy physical work only. In fact, this meant that political prisoners of special camps equaled in their position with hard labor convicts.

“The worst thing in the special camp is the feeling of a dead end. Many dozens of people who had completed their term (and free by law) were detained in the camp for an indefinite period, and sometimes ‘sat out’ for several years.”

FROM THE LETTER OF THE PRISONER E. VLADIMIROVA TO TSK KPSS, JULY 28, 1954

STARTING IN MAY 1948, BEAUTIFUL AND EVEN POETIC NAMES WERE GIVEN TO SPECIAL CAMPS IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN CONSPIRACY: CAMP № 1 WAS NAMED MINERAL, № 2 — MOUNTAIN, № 3 — DUBRAVA (OAK GROVE), № 4 — STEPPE, № 5 — COASTAL, № 6 — RIVERSIDE, № 7 — LAKESIDE, № 8 — SANDY, № 9 — MEADOW, № 10 — CANE, № 11 — FURTHEST, № 12 — WATERSHED.

Between 1949 and 1953, the number of local corrective-labor camp administrations more than doubled. The construction of two “Stalin skyscrapers” — a building of the Moscow State University on the Lenin Mountains and a high-rise building on the Kotelnicheskaya Embankment — was the merit of the GULAG.

Prisoners of two construction camps under the jurisdiction of Glavpromstroy — No. 560 and No. 352 — were involved in the construction of the MSU high-rise building. From January 1952 to April 1953, the ITL of Special Area Construction served to build faculties of Physics, Biology and Soil, and Chemistry of the Moscow State University. The finishing works of the main building of the University were also carried out by camp units of the ITL of Special Area Construction. For example, interior decoration of the 24–30 floors was produced by a camp division with the apt name “High-rise.” Headcount of prisoners of the “High-rise” camp facility was 368 people, of which 208 women. The address of this camp facility in the reference list appeared as follows: “Moscow, Lenin Mountains, Main Building of the Moscow State University, 23rd floor.”

During the entire period of the existence of the GULAG (from 1930 to 1956), its departmental affiliation and full name repeatedly changed. In different years, the GULAG was under the authority of the OGPU, the NKVD, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Ministry of Justice. The full name of the main body changed depending on its structural subdivisions. Despite repeated renames, the central body always kept its original abbreviation — GULAG. For the first time, A. Solzhenitsyn introduced this abbreviation into scientific circulation and world vocabulary when his famous work “The Gulag Archipelago” was published. Now this word is known all over the world. These five letters have become a sinister symbol of life on the verge of death, a symbol of lawlessness, hard labor, and human disempowerment.

Economic considerations can partly explain the reasons for the dissolution of the centralized system of the camps after the death of Stalin. It was not only the lack of profitability and cost-effectiveness of the corrective-labor camp system. In March 1953, the GULAG lost its ideological mastermind and leader. Together with Stalin, many national economic projects died. The imperial ambitions of the Soviet leader could explain their purpose solely, but not by the economic necessity of the country. Already on March 25, 1953, on the proposal of the new Minister of Internal Affairs L. Beriya, the construction of 22 largest objects of the country was stopped.





Landscape of the separate camp facility of the hard labor division of the Vorkutinsky ITL, 1945. Later, such kind of individual hard labor camp facilities became part of special camps. The largest river camp (Special camp № 6) was opened in Vorkuta in 1948. GA RF



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Центральный Комитет Всесоюзной Коммунистической Партии (Большевиков).
ПОЛИТБЮРО.

Протокол № 86 пункт 14 от 27.VI. 1929 г.

СЛУШАЛИ:

Об использовании труда уголовно-заключенных.

(ПБ от 23.V.29 г., пр. № 81, п. 13).

(т. т. Янсон, Смирнов, Ягода, Крыленко, Толмачев, Угланов, Катанян).

ПОСТАНОВИЛИ:

- а) Утвердить предложение К-ссии ПБ (см. приложение 3) с соответствующим оформлением в советском порядке.
- б) Именовать в дальнейшем концентрационные лагеря "исправительно-трудовыми лагерями".
- в) Поручить т. т. Янсону и Ягоде выработать и оформить предложение об исправительно-трудовых лагерях. (на об.)

Выписки т. т.

Торбунову, Ягоде, Янсону, Толмачеву, Смирнову, Угланову, Катаняну.

Архив: Дело № *XL1*

Кем отправлены (подпись)

С. Секретно.

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СВЕДЕНИЯ

о численности заключенных в лагерях, тюрьмах и колониях НКВД по месяцам 1935 и 1936 гг.

Месяц (на 1-ое число)	Количество заключенных			Всего
	В лагерях	В тюрьмах	В колониях	
<u>1935 г.</u>				
Январь	735.239	89.136	151.123	975.498
Февраль	747.910	108.890	184.615	1.041.415
Март	761.165	117.523	199.251	1.077.939
Апрель	777.568	125.043	211.999	1.114.610
Май	788.606	140.816	238.742	1.168.164
Июнь	803.444	149.313	253.149	1.205.906
Июль	811.614	174.273	236.159	1.222.046
Август	812.653	163.994	257.587	1.234.234
Сентябрь	833.256	151.908	281.466	1.266.630
Октябрь	848.926	152.057	282.819	1.283.802
Ноябрь	853.028	154.010	285.510	1.292.548
Декабрь	856.810	160.843	280.671	1.298.324
<u>1936 г.</u>				
Январь	850.758	165.238	291.850	1.307.846
Февраль	845.718	161.824	301.446	1.308.988
Март	847.280	158.825	299.536	1.305.641
Апрель	858.517	146.478	280.765	1.285.760
Май	873.123.	142.097	270.449	1.285.669
Июнь	884.098	128.821	273.118	1.286.037
Июль	876.436	120.660	279.103	1.276.199
Август	862.041	117.648	271.978	1.251.667
Сентябрь	859.050	121.142	269.284	1.249.476

570 219
214

П Р И К А З

НАРОДНОГО КОМИССАРА ВНУТРЕННИХ ДЕЛ СЮЗА ССР
за 1937 г.

078

СОДЕРЖАНИЕ:

Об организации лесозаготовительных лагерей.

078 "16" августа 1937г.

г. Москва.

Во исполнение постановления Совета Народных Комиссаров Союза ССР об организации Наркомвнутделом лесозаготовительных лагерей, ПРИКАЗЫВАЮ:

1. Организовать нижеследующие лагеря:

- а) Тагилетский,
- б) Томск-Асинский,
- в) Куломский,
- г) Усть-Вымский,
- д) Ивдельский,
- е) Каргопольский,
- ж) Локчимский.

2. Начальниками лагерей назначить:

Томск-Асинского - комиссара государственной безопасности 2 ранга тов.КАРЛСОНА;

Куломского - тов.КРАВКИНСА;

Усть-Вымского - тов.КОМРАКОВА;

Ивдельского - тов.АЛМАЗОВА;

Каргопольского - тов.СОКОЛОВА;

Локчимского - тов. ВУЛЬ.

Совершенно секретно

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П Р И К А З

НАРОДНОГО КОМИССАРА ВНЕТРЕННИХ ДЕЛ ССР
за 1943 год.

00968 Содержание: Об организации отделений каторжных работ при
исправительно-трудовых лагерях НКВД.

00968 "11" июня 1943 г.

гор. Москва.

В соответствии с Указом Президиума Верховного Совета СССР от 19 апреля "О мерах наказания для немецко-фашистских злодеев, шпионов и изменников родины и их пособников", -

П Р И К А З И В А Ю:

1. Организовать отделения каторжных работ при следующих лагерях:

Воркутский лагерь на 10.000 чел.
для использования на работах по строительству новых угольных шахт и на подземных работах в действующих шахтах.

Норильский лагерь на 10.000 чел.
для работ на рудниках, шахтах, карьерах и кирпичных заводах.

Севвостлаг (Дальстрой) на 10.000 чел.
на добыче золота и олова.

2. Создать в составе Карлага НКВД каторжное отделение для нетрудоспособных и больных, осужденных на каторжные работы.

3. Начальнику ГУЛАГ'а тов. Наседкину, начальнику Тюремного Управления тов. Никольскому и начальнику 1 спецотдела всех осужденных к каторжным работам (исключая больных и нетрудоспособных) направлять вагонзаками немедленно после осуждения, в первую очередь, до конца навигации в Норильлаг.

Сл. Секретно.
эко.

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Приложение к приказу НКВД СССР
№ _____ от _____

И Н С Т Р У К Ц И Я

О ПОРЯДКЕ СОДЕРЖАНИЯ ОСУЖДЕННЫХ К КАТОРЖНЫМ РАБОТАМ В ЛАГЕРЯХ НКВД.

1. Осужденные к каторжным работам подлежат размещению отдельно от остальных лагерников в особых бараках с решетками на окнах. Бараки заключенных находятся на запоре и охраняются стрелками.

Бараки каторжников отделяются от остальной лагерной зоны высоким забором.

2. Установить для осужденных к каторжным работам одежду специального образца и цвета с нашивкой на верхнем платье личного № заключенного.

3. Осужденные к каторжным работам в течение первого года заключения лишаются переписки и получения премиальных денег. В последующие годы разрешение на переписку и выдачу премиальных денег производится с разрешения начальника лагеря, в зависимости от поведения в лагере и отношения к труду на производстве.

4. Питание и снабжение вещевым довольствием осужденных производится на общих основаниях по существующим лагерным нормам.

5. Для осужденных к каторжным работам устанавливается следующий порядок использования на работе:

- а) продолжительность рабочего дня устанавливается на 1 час выше общелагерной нормы;
- б) осужденные выводятся на работу всегда под усиленным контролем;
- в) осужденные в течение первых двух лет используются только в качестве чернорабочей силы на непосредственной работе. Старшие, бригадиры и мастера назначаются или из вольнонаемных или заключенные других категорий;
- г) осужденные к каторжным работам приносятся в первую очередь на все особо тяжелые работы.



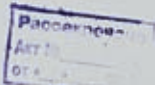
Совершенно секретно

(Особая папка)

98

П Р И К А З

МИНИСТРА ВНУТРЕННИХ ДЕЛ СОВЕТА ССР
за 1948 год

Содержание:

219

Об организации лагерей МВД со строгим режимом для содержания особо-опасных государственных преступников.

0219

"28" февраля 1948 года

г. Москва

Постановлением Совета Министров СССР от 21 февраля 1948 года № 416-159сс на Министерство внутренних дел СССР возложена организация особых лагерей в районе Колымы, на Дальнем Севере, Норильске, Коми АССР, в районе Караганды и в Темниках Мордовской АССР для содержания осужденных к лишению свободы шпионов, диверсантов, террористов, троцкистов, правых, меньшевиков, эсеров, анархистов, националистов, белоэмигрантов и участников других антисоветских организаций и групп и лиц, представляющих опасность по своим антисоветским связям и вражеской деятельности.

Содержание в особых лагерях осужденных за другие преступления запрещено.

Указанным постановлением Совета Министров СССР предусмотрено:

1. Перевести в особые лагеря МВД осужденных перечисленных выше категорий, отбывающих в настоящее время наказание в общих исправительно-трудовых лагерях МВД, за исключением тяжело больных, неизлечимых хроников и беспомощных инвалидов, которые подлежат оставлению по месту прежнего содержания.

CHAPTER 5. ECONOMICS OF THE GULAG

FORCED LABOR OF THE CONVICTS WAS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT FACTORS OF THE SOVIET ECONOMY IN THE 1930S — 1940S.

“It will be necessary to further take up the organization of forced labor (hard labor) and camps through the colonization of unoccupied places and with iron discipline. We have enough space.”

FROM THE LETTER BY F. DZERZHINSKY TO HIS DEPUTY I. UNSLICHT DATED AUGUST 16, 1923

CHRONOLOGY:

AUTUMN OF 1923

The OGPU under the leadership of F. Dzerzhinsky develops a new concept of isolating criminals and organizing forced labor to colonize uninhabited places

JULY 11, 1929

The SNK USSR adopted a resolution “On the use of labor of criminal offenders», which defined as the main principle of the organization of the camp economy the use of forced labor of convicts.

NOVEMBER 11, 1931

The TsK of the VKP(b) adopted a resolution “On Kolyma” which prescribed to form a special trust “to boost the development of gold mining in the upper reaches of Kolyma.” Thus, it was the beginning of the economic activity of Dalstroy and the north-eastern Kolyma camps.

JANUARY 10, 1939

A special technical bureau has been established under the NKVD USSR to use the intellectual work of convicts with special technical knowledge.

1940–1941

In the composition of the NKVD, bodies with a defined industrial and sectoral specialization are being created — the Chief Administration of the Mining and Metallurgical Industry Camps (GULGMP), the Chief Administration of the Railway Construction Camps (GULZhDS), etc. Their economic activity was based on the exploitation of forced labor of convicts.



Since the early 1930s, forced labor has become one of the important factors in the development of the Soviet economy. Newly created labor camps under the leadership of the OGPU at the time of organization, as a rule, had a defined sectoral focus: logging, agricultural, oil and coal mining, mining and metallurgy, construction, etc.

1, 2. Pe-2 and Tu-2 aircrafts were the main bombers of Soviet aviation during the Great Patriotic War. Both were created by convicts V. Petlyakov and A. Tupolev in the Central Design Bureau №29. GA RF

[Read more about the prison-type design bureaus, also known as “sharashki”, on page 69](#)

3. Manual washing of gold on Kolyma. 1938. GA RF

The White Sea-Baltic Canal is considered being the firstborn of the camp economy. From 1931 to 1933, its construction was carried out by the prisoners of two camps of the OGPU: Uslag and Belbaltlag. High rates of work in the complete absence of housing, roads, and mechanisms cost health and life of many servile builders at the initial stage of construction.

“Look at the map of the RSFSR... To the north of Vologda... There are vast spaces that would fit dozens of huge cultural states. And in all these spaces, patriarchy, semi-wildness, and real savagery reign.”

V. LENIN. THE COMPLETE WORKS. V. 43. MOSCOW, 1970. P. 228

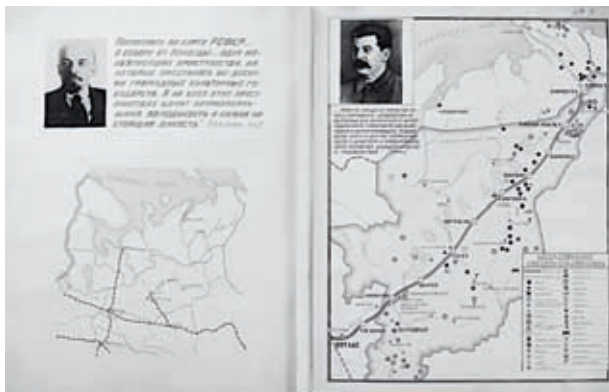
“The OGPU must expand the existing and organize new labor camps (in the territory of Ukhta and other remote areas) for the reception of convicts to colonize these areas and exploit their natural wealth through the use of the labor of deprived of freedom.”

FROM THE STATEMENT OF THE SNK USSR “ON THE USE OF FORCE OF CRIMINAL CONVICTS” AS OF JULY 11, 1929

“... Winter came, harsh and frosty. The earth, devoid of thick moss cover, immediately froze and turned into a grasted, like concrete, mixture of sandy loam, pebbles, and boulders. Should you beat it with the scrap, bite with teeth, it is impossible to gnaw more than a hundredth a day. And the norm is 2 cubic meters per day. And besides, a piercing frosty wind is blowing, and shoes are worn out, and the toes are out. And the jackets are thin. And there is no heating reserve at all in the weakening muscles... And it is so cold on the track and the piercing wind immediately takes away the rest of the strength.”

FROM MEMOIRS OF THE FORMER CONVICT OF BELBALTLAG D. VITKOVSKY

4.



5.



4. A page from the album of the NKVD of the USSR “The construction of the Kotlas — Kozhva railway line of the North-Pechora highway.” The end of the 1930s. GA RF

5. Convicts on the construction of the White Sea-Baltic Canal. The early 1930s. RGALI

IN 1936, IN THE USSR THERE WERE 13 BIG PRODUCTION-ORIENTED CAMPS. BY SPRING 1938, THERE WERE 33 OF THEM.

The gigantic character distinguished the early GULAG, before the era of the Great Terror, in terms of staffing and the number of prisoners. Until 1937, most of the GULAG camps had a large number of prisoners (Dmitlag — over 190 thousand, Bamlag — over 200 thousand, Belbaltlag — about 90 thousand, Ukhtpechlag — about 50 thousand). In addition, the first camps of GULAG operated on vast territories, which was inefficient in terms of elementary management and economy. Since the late 1930s, the NKVD refuses to maintain such large camps, dividing them into smaller facilities.

From the second half of the 1930s, the process of classifying the activities of the GULAG and all construction projects in which the convicts were exploited begins. The economic activity of the NKVD is noticeably intensified since 1938.

Since the end of the 1930s, the camp economics has acquired a planned, large-scale and clear military-industrial character. During this period, the number of prisoners explodes, and the sentences are significantly longer. If in 1936 there were 13 large camps and industrial complexes in the USSR, then in the spring of 1938, the number increased up to 33.



1. Construction of the railroad line Soroka — Obozerskaya. Rock excavation. Soroksky ITL. The end of the 1930s. GA RF



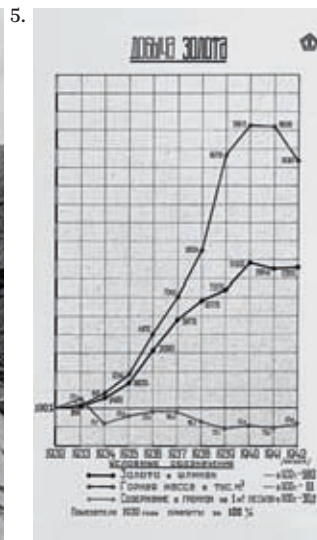
2. Construction of a road. Soroksky ITL. The end of the 1930s. GA RF



3. Railway line Soroka — Obozerskaya opened on December 28, 1940. The first train. Soroksky ITL. GA RF

CAMP ECONOMICS COVERED 20 BRANCHES OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY IN 1940. THE GULAG HELD THE FOLLOWING PERCENT OF PRODUCTION FROM THE VOLUME OF THE COUNTRY S INDUSTRIES: NICKEL — 46.5%, TIN — 76%, COBALT— 40%, CHROME ORE — 40.5%, GOLD — 60%, LUMBER — 25.3%. DALSTROY EXTRACTED OVER 360 TONS OF CHEMICALLY PURE GOLD BETWEEN 1941 AND 1945. 106.5 TONS OF THIS AMOUNT WAS EXTRACTED MANUALLY.

It is almost impossible to list everything that the GULAG produced. By 1940, the camp economy covered 20 branches of the national economy, among which the leading were non-ferrous metallurgy, forestry, and fuel industry. In the early 1940s, the formation of industrial Chief Administrations, which accommodated camps with a pronounced industry specialization, begins inside the NKVD. So, in 1940–1941, the Chief Administration of the Mining and Metallurgical Industry Camps (GULGMP) appeared, and the Chief Administration of the Railway Construction Camps (GULZhDS) and others. Over the years of the existence of the GULAG, 26 administrations of this kind have been established within NKVD.



4. Convicts of Sevvostlag on ore washing. Dalstroy, 1938. GA RF

5. Indicators of gold production. GA RF

6. Chai-Uryin Mining Administration. The mine "Bolshevik." One of the most gold-bearing places of Kolyma. North-east ITL of the Dalstroi, 1942–1943. GA RF

By the beginning of the Great Patriotic War 2.35, million convicts were in the GULAG. The war made significant adjustments to the economic activities of the camps and colonies. According to the order of the NKVD of the USSR “On the termination of work on the construction of the NKVD in connection with the outbreak of war” as of June 28, 1941, construction work was suspended on 41 enterprises and at 19 road construction sites from July 1, 1941. Under the orders of the government, the GULAG organized the production for the front line, restructuring all industrial colonies for the needs the supplying with ammunition, uniforms, and other military products. By the end of the war, the GULAG ranked second for the production of high-explosive mines and for the production of special packing for ammunition in the Union. In addition, the GULAG actively took part in the development of transport infrastructure. So, during the war, Volga and North-Pechora railways were built with the help of forced labor. That allowed to transport coal from Vorkuta to Moscow and Leningrad. The newly built railroad Soroka-Obozerskaya provided transportation of soldiers and ammunition along the White Sea.

“... to organize, as part of the Administration of Corrective-Labor Colonies of the GULAG of the NKVD and as an independent body of the Chief Administration, a special department for the production of military products (ammunition, weapons, special packing, and equipment) at the expense of the regular staff numbers of the NKVD.”

FROM THE ORDER OF THE NKVD “ON THE ORGANIZATION OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PRODUCTION OF THE MILITARY PRODUCTS” AS OF NOVEMBER 17, 1942

1.



1. 10 echelons of coal from Vorkuta, supplied above the plan. GA RF

2.



3.



2, 3. Military production in the colonies of the GULAG. 1944. GA RF

DURING 1940–1950 DOZENS OF VARIOUS RESEARCH INSTITUTES AND PRISON-TYPE DESIGN BUREAUS, ALSO KNOWN BY THE COLLOQUIAL NAME “SHARASHKI,” WERE CREATED UNDER THE NKVD.

In 1939, a special technical bureau was established within the NKVD to use the intellectual work of convicted scientists, engineers, and technicians who were in detention in various camps and prisons. In the 1940s — 1950s, dozens of various research institutes and prison-type design bureaus were established under the NKVD-MVD of the USSR, which were colloquially called “sharashki”. The most famous design bureau created under the auspices of the NKVD was the Central Design Bureau № 29 (“Tupolev sharaga”). Such “enemies of the nation” as P. Korolev, A. Tupolev, M. Petlyakov, V. Myasishchev, D. Tomashevich, and other outstanding design engineers have worked there.

4,032,810 people from the so-called special contingent of the MVD were assigned to various ministries and departments by December 1, 1946. This number of involuntary workers included over 1.2 million special settlers, about 1.1 million convicts, over 1.7 million prisoners of war and internees.

Free forced labor created the illusion of its cheapness. In fact, such labor was costly to the state. The income from the exploitation of convicts did not cover the expenses of maintaining camps and colonies. Therefore, GULAG annually received large amounts of grants from the state budget.

“Due to the fact that the cost of maintaining working convicts includes the full cost of maintaining a camp (the entire camp administration, militarized guards, housing, clothing, food, cultural, living, and sanitary services, etc.), the average cost of prisoners on construction is more expensive than the average salary of a civilian employee.”

FROM THE REPORT OF THE MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS C. KRUGLOV TO THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE USSR L. BERIYA AS OF OCTOBER 9, 1950



4, 5. Pe-2 and Tu-2 aircrafts were the main bombers of Soviet aviation during the Great Patriotic War. Both were created by convicts V. Petlyakov and A. Tupolev in

the Central Design Bureau 29. Photos from the album “The work of the 4th special department for 10 years.” 1949. GA RF

6. A. Tupolev

7. S. Korolev in the Butyrskaya prison. 1940. The photo is the courtesy of N. Koroleva

**“... OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF THE CONVICTS:
 A) 1702 THOUSAND PEOPLE ARE EMPLOYED
 INCLUDING WORKERS WITH REDUCED CAPACITY
 (III WEAKENED CATEGORY) — 824 THOUSAND
 PEOPLE.
 B) CONVICTS OF INDIVIDUAL LABOR
 (DISABLED AND LESS-ABLED) — 265 THOUSAND
 PEOPLE.
 C) NON-PERFORMING (ACTIVE HANDICAPPED) —
 225 THOUSAND PEOPLE.”**

**FROM THE REPORT ON THE EMPLOYMENT RATES OF GULAG CONVICTS DETAINED
 IN CAMPS AND COLONIES OF THE MVD OF THE USSR ON DECEMBER 1, 1948.**

In the second half of the 1940s — early 1950s, prison labor was widely used. Post-war Moscow with its heyday and revival was indebted to the GULAG. The most famous construction projects in Moscow, where forced labor was widely used, were the Moscow State University (a complex of buildings on the Lenin mountains) and a high-rise building on Kotelnicheskaya Embankment. However, much more important objects in the Moscow region, in the construction of which the convicts were directly involved, were the objects of air defense — “Berkut” system. To build these objects, 13 secret camps were set up at the same time in early 1952 Knit by special order of the MVD. They were identified by cryptic letters: “БЖ,” “ВЧ,” “ИН,” “ГБ,” “ЕЯ,” etc. They were located around Moscow along circumferential roads (1st and 2nd “concretes”), which were also built by prisoners.



Covers of archival records on objects of corrective-labor camps “БЖ,” “ИН,” “ГБ,” “ЕЯ” of the MVD organized in January 1952. GA RF

Stalin's death interrupted the economic expansion of the GULAG. The process of reorganization of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the USSR, which began in March 1953, affected all aspects of camp life, including the camp economy. On March 18, the Council of Ministers of the USSR issued a resolution on transfer of production and construction organizations from the MVD to other ministries and departments.

“Considering that the construction of several hydraulic structures, railroads, highways, and enterprises, envisaged by earlier government resolutions, is not caused by the urgent needs of the national economy, the Council of Ministers of the USSR decides:

1. To stop the construction of the following facilities:

a) hydraulic structures: the Main Turkmen channel; the Volga-Ural gravity canal; the Volga-Baltic waterway; waterworks on the lower Don; the Ust-Donetsk port;

b) railways and highways: the Chum-Salekhard-Igarka railway [...] the Komsomolsk-Pobedino railway; tunnel crossing under the Tatar Strait...”

**FROM THE PROJECT OF THE RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE USSR
“ON AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM OF 1953” AS OF MARCH 21, 1953**

“In Stalin's time, the slave labor of millions of prisoners who died in the monstrous system of the GULAG played a significant economic role, especially in the development of poorly inhabited areas of the east and north. There is no doubt that this system was not only immensely inhuman and criminal but also ineffective. It was a part of the extensive, wasteful economy of that time, not to mention the remote consequences of the barbaric destruction of the human potential of the country.”

A. SAKHAROV. PEACE, PROGRESS, HUMAN RIGHTS. LENINGRAD, 1990. P. 78



1, 2. Guard camp towers.
Current condition.
Photo by V. Khokhlov

3. “Dead Road”: unfinished
transpolar highway Chum —
Salekhard — Igarka.
Current condition.
Photo by V. Khokhlov

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Тов.У Н Ш Л И Х Т У

Мне кажется, что размеры применения высшей меры наказания в настоящее время /как по суду так и по нашим решениям / не отвечают интересам дела и сложившейся обстановки при НЭП"е и мирной полосе развития. Высшая мера наказания это исключительная мера, а потому введение ее как постоянный институт для пролетарского государства вредно и даже пагубно. Поэтому я хочу перед ЦК поставить этот вопрос. Я думаю, что высшую меру ~~следует~~ следует оставить исключительно для госуд. изменников /шпионов/ и бандитов и поднимающих восстания. По отношению к ним -этого требует наша самозащита-в окружении врагов. Но все остальные преступления должны караться изоляцией и принуд. работами. При чем в таком случае надо решить, что присужденные к срокам выше определенного предела /скажем от 5 лет/ никаким амнистиям не подлежат. Необходимо будет далее заняться действительно организацией принудительного труда

1. / каторжных работ/-лагеря с колонизацией незаселенных мест и с железной дисциплиной Мест и пространств у нас достаточно. Прошу ВАС этот вопрос срочно поставить на обсуждение Коллегии ГПУ для внесения его /желательно было бы от имени ГПУ приединомыслии/ в ЦК.

Я уверен, что будь Вл. Ильич у руля он был-бы за это предложение, а м. быть пошел -бы еще дальше. Пришло время когда мы можем вести борьбу и без высшей меры. Это было бы большим оруди^ем в руках коммунистов за границей для привлечения интеллигентских и мелкобуржуазных масс.

16/VIII.23

Ф. Д. З Е Р Ж И Н С К И Й



Д. С. СТОЯКОВИЧ

2

38

СОВ. СЕКРЕТНО 12

ПРИКАЗ**Народного Комиссара Внутренних Дел Союза ССР****за 1939 год****СОДЕРЖАНИЕ:**

№ 0013—0020. Разосланы по принадлежности.
 № 0021. Об организации Особого технического бюро.

№ 0013—0020. Разосланы по принадлежности.

№ 0021, 10-го января 1939 г., гор. Москва.

1. Создать при Народном комиссаре внутренних дел СССР Особое техническое бюро для использования заключенных, имеющих специальные технические знания.
2. Утвердить «Положение об Особом техническом бюро».
3. Утвердить структуру и штат Особого технического бюро.
4. Оставить завод № 82 при Особом техническом бюро как опытно-вспомогательную базу.
5. Начальнику АХУ, комиссару государственной безопасности 3-го ранга тов. **Сумбатову**, в месячный срок обеспечить Особое бюро необходимым служебным помещением, а также выделить для Особого бюро 6 легковых автомашин М-1.

Народный комиссар внутренних дел Союза ССР

Л. БЕРИЯ.

2. The order of the Narkom of Internal Affairs of the USSR "On the organization of a special technical bureau." January 10, 1939. GA RF

3. The first page of the report on the employment rates of GULAG convicts as of December 1, 1948. GA RF

270-259

Совершенно секретно

Дело	1
Спр.	305

О Т Ч Е Т

по распределению и трудовому использованию
заключенных, находящихся в лагерях и колониях
МВД СССР

1 40
по состоянию на 15 июня 1948 года

1. В лагерях и колониях МВД СССР имеется заключенных - в с е г о.....	2289,0 тыс.чел.
В том числе: в лагерях	1109,0 " "
в колониях	1083,0 " "
в пересыльных тюрьмах и в пути	97,0 " "
2. Из общего количества заключенных:	
а) работающих	1702,0 тыс.чел.
В том числе: работающих с пониженной трудоспособностью (ослабленн. III категории)	824,0 " "
б) заключенные индивидуального труда (калеки, полукалеки)	265,0 " "
в) неработающие (активированные инвалиды)	225,0 " "
г) переходящий состав пересыльных тюрем и в пути	97,0 " "
3. Из общего количества заключенных находятся:	
а) в собственных лагерях и колониях МВД	1700,0 тыс.чел.
В том числе работающих (включая и пониженную трудоспособность).....	1313,0 " "
б) на предприятиях и стройках других министерств	589,0 " "
В том числе постоянно работающих..	389,0 " "

CHAPTER 6. SURVIVAL STRATEGY BEHIND BARBED WIRE

NOT ALL OF THOSE WHO WERE SENTENCED TO DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY WENT FREE. FOR 26 YEARS OF THE GULAG EXISTENCE, OVER 2 MILLION PEOPLE DIED IN CAMPS BECAUSE OF HUNGER AND ILLNESS. HOWEVER, EACH OF THOSE WHO HAVE PRESERVED THEIR LIFE HAD THEIR OWN SURVIVAL STRATEGY.

CHRONOLOGY:

AUGUST 1, 1935

The NKVD issued the order “On the set-off working days for convicts of camps and places of imprisonment of the NKVD,” which declared that “the set-off of working days is one of the main forms of early release of convicts from camps, prisons, and colonies of the NKVD and the highest form of encouragement for them.”

JUNE 15, 1939

On the initiative of I. Stalin the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the USSR abolished off-set of working days and parole. The decree prescribed: “The convicted person must serve the full term of the sentence imposed by the court.”

AUGUST 2, 1939

The “Temporary instruction on the regime of convicts in the NKVD labor camps” was introduced. It stated that the camp regime should ensure the safe isolation of criminals and promote the most effective use of their labor. A strengthened regime was established for those convicted of counter-revolutionary crimes.

MARCH 13, 1950

The Council of Ministers of the USSR adopted a decree according to which all prisoners, except for those who were kept in special camps, were transferred to wages.



In the 1920s — 1950s, on the territory of the USSR was about 500 production-oriented camp complexes, each of which comprised tens and hundreds of smaller units — divisions, facilities. The camp was a special world with a set of rules and everyday practices that determined the life of its inhabitants. Political convicts sentenced to long terms of imprisonment (from 10 to 25 years) spent most of their lives in camps. The prisoners of the Stalin camps faced a difficult task — not just to survive, but to preserve human dignity, their inner world.

1. Convicts at work in a shoe shop. Vorkutinsky ITL, 1945. GA RF

[Read more about the “effective use of prison labor” on page 79](#)

2. Camp orchestra on the construction of the Soroka-Obozerskaya railway. Soroka ITL, 1940. GA RF

3. Female zone, the hard labor unit of the Vorkutinsky ITL, 1945. GA RF

4. Column No. 7 of the Eastern ITL, 1944. GA RF

CAMP ZONE, BARBED WIRE, WATCHTOWERS, BARRACKS, AND BUNKS SURROUNDED CONVICTS EVERY DAY. DEPRIVATION OF FREEDOM AND CONSTANT COERCION TO HARD LABOR OPPRESSED CONVICTS NOT ONLY PHYSICALLY BUT ALSO SPIRITUALLY. THE DAY AT THE CAMP GOT INTOLERABLY LONG, FILLED WITH BACK-BREAKING LABOR AND WORRIES ABOUT FOOD, PRESERVATION OF PHYSICAL HEALTH AND LIFE.

“Fences, barbed wire went beyond the horizon. And barracks, barracks, barracks. I ask the escort — what is it? They answer: ‘Well, it is our Russia, yours and ours.’”

FROM MEMOIRS OF A FORMER PRISONER OF THE GULAG Y. FIDELGOLTZ

“The labor force employed in the construction of the largest industrial enterprises, railways, sea shipyards, special defense facilities, and the development and removal of timber is not fully used due to extremely poor uniforms and an inadequate amount of food for convicts.”

REPORT OF THE NARKOM OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE USSR L. BERIYA TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SNK OF THE USSR V. MOLOTOV DATED MAY 30, 1940



5. The hard labor department of the Vorkutinsky ITL, 1945.
GA RF

Most of the camps were located in remote, sparsely populated areas of the USSR, where the availability of household items became a huge problem. The prisoners made the necessary items themselves: spoons, bowls, flasks, pots, combs. The skill to repair shoes and clothes, to hide your own spoon or pot during a search sometimes was a matter of life or death in the camp.

“In the first days you suffer from the lack of a spoon, but then you get used to such discrimination the prisoner. With the finger or tongue, you get those crumbs you were awarded with for shock work in the woods or digging trenches for the foundation of the coal preparation plant and the mine, on laying walls of houses for miners.”

FROM MEMOIRS OF A FORMER CONVICT K. LAKITSKAS

“Having received a ration of 600 grams, we went to the dining area. There were no tables, no seats, and no heating. The tableware in the dining area was the same as in the Magadan transfer, made of cans by local craftsmen.”

FROM MEMOIRS OF CONVICTS

“A spoon... Have you ever thought about the comparative value of the items we use on a daily basis? Here we sit down at the dining table. It is covered with a tablecloth. On it, there is bread, plates, knife, forks, spoons, glasses, saucers. Which of them is the most important, the most valuable, the most necessary — without which there is absolutely nothing to do?

In the ‘anti-world’, where the action of my story takes place, life was brought to a humiliating misery. There was no table, let alone a tablecloth. Of all that fends on your table, the prisoner, if he had to choose from this grace, without hesitation, would grab a spoon.

The fate of the one who had no spoon was sad. You will not get it anywhere. But how to eat without it? You can, at worst, pour watery soup into your mouth from your pot. Use a crust of bread, and even fingers to pick up porridge bits. And what to be when you have to eat from the common tank, and there is no spoon? Do not wait from the ‘dogmen’ — so the camp wags called the ones eating from one tank — that they will leave even a drop. The cruel, unwritten camp law read: ‘You die today, and I die tomorrow.’ Permanent hunger is such distress. Therefore, we protected the spoon above all, hid it away better.”

NONFICTIONAL STORIES “COMPANIONS IN MISFORTUNE” BY L. GORODIN

1.



2.



1. A self-made spoon. GMIG

2. A self-made flask. GMIG

“The bunks in the barrack were three-storied. Everyone tried to take a place near the edge, and not near the pole which was always covered in bedbugs... The light in the barrack was on all night...”

FROM MEMOIRS OF A FORMER CONVICT N. VAISHVILENE

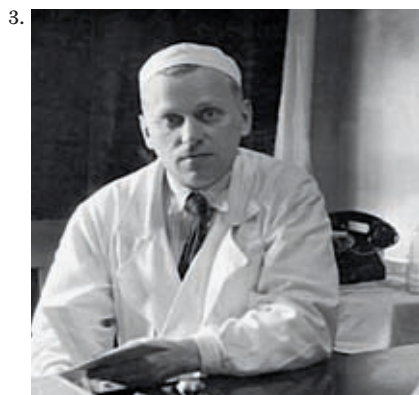
“The incidence and mortality among prisoners of the North-Pechora camp of the NKVD take alarming proportions. In August of this year, 322 prisoners died; in September, according to incomplete data, — 692 prisoners. For the first 9 days of October of this year, 210 prisoners have died...”

FROM THE SPECIAL MESSAGE OF THE OPERATIONS DIVISION OF THE GULAG DATED NOVEMBER 1, 1941

The only way to save one's life in the camp was the so-called “light labor” indoors, for which required not only some special skills but also great luck. In camps, prisoners who had the “life-saving” professions were valued: medics, shoemakers, tailors, toolmakers, actors, musicians, artists. The ability to sew, knit, embroider gave the opportunity for at least some income for women.

“...I apparently owe my life to my profession. I don't know if I would have saved my health and even life, not if I were a doctor. And I owe to this fact that, in very difficult conditions, I have always felt so good, peaceful. I have never felt this way, neither before nor after. The humanitarian field of the medical activity, which becomes visible in any unusual environment, created and supported this inner world when grief, hardship, and suffering were the main content, the main background of existence.”

FROM THE LETTER BY DOCTOR A. BAEV TO ACADEMIC V. ENDELGARDT



3. The convicted doctor A. Baev in the Norilsk hospital. 1941. From the family archive of the Baevs

4. Convicts at work in a shoe shop. Vorkutinsky ITL, 1945. GA RF

5. The Certificate of Honor to the prisoner A. Ogarkov, who showed examples of high productivity at work as a doctor. 1946. GMIG

“June 22, 1939. I rarely write — this is true. I could write more often, but I work very hard, I do not leave the workshop before 11-12 at night... I really need floss, threads of good colors... If you can get them, post them to me. I should also ask you for powdered aniline dyes for fabrics — we dye threads for embroidery.”

FROM A LETTER BY A CONVICT OF KOLYMA CAMPS

“Prisoners died daily. But it could not overshadow a powerful sense of the return to life, that embraced all of us, recovering. It turned out that here it is possible to earn some extra food.

‘Can you embroider?’ — Sonya, the Assyrian nurse from the household, mysteriously asks me.

‘Of course,’ — I answer confidently, having called a view of crosses on the canvas and needlework lessons in the preparatory class of the gymnasium from the darkness of times.

‘Now make this pattern on the pillow. And I will get you sugar, butter, white bread...’

FROM MEMOIRS OF A FORMER CONVICT E. GINSBURG

1.



2.



3.



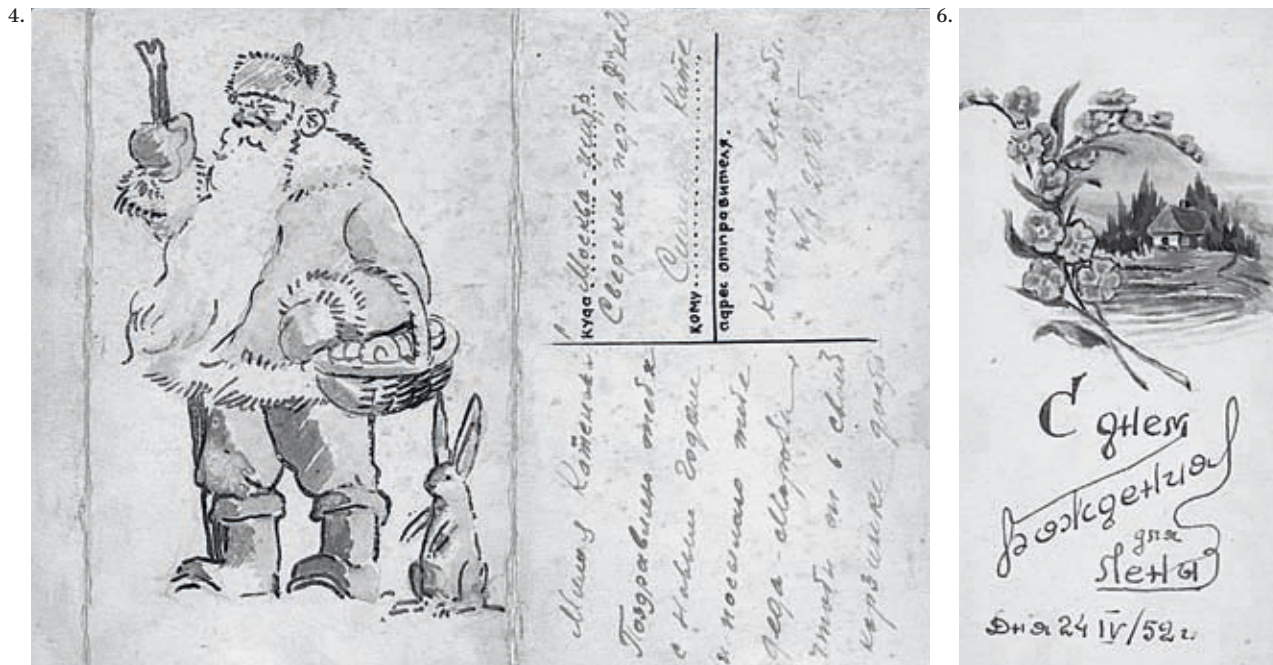
1. E. S. Ginsburg, 1975.
From the family archive
of Aksenovs

2. Men's shirt ("vyshyvanka"),
made by the prisoner
M. Bronzeberg in the work-
shop of the Norilsky ITL.
GMIG

3. Children's collar
embroidered by women
in Temnikovskiy ITL.
1938-1939. GMIG

“I earned there a bit by drawing infinite numbers of postcards. The women congratulated each other on their birthday, name-day, on holidays. And they have always ordered postcards. And I sketched these various postcards and my customers bartered them for a piece of lard or sugar, something like that... Once I drew a postcard for the head of the bakery who was also a prisoner. She gave me a piece of white bread, which was the most pleasant.”

FROM MEMOIRS OF A FORMER CONVICT I. UGRIMOVA



4. A postcard made by prisoner A. Silin for his daughter Katya. Arkhangelsk Region, Kotlas, 1944. GMIG

5. A postcard drawn by A. Silin in exile. Salekhard, 1952. GMIG

6. A postcard drawn by prisoner M. Chaika. River camp (Special camp № 6), 1952. GMIG

CAMP THEATERS WERE CREATED IN MANY LARGE CAMPS, BUT NOT FOR THE LEISURE OF THE PRISONERS. THEY ENTERTAINED THE CAMP ADMINISTRATION.

Convicted artists performed in such theaters. Many of them were already known throughout the country, such as Lidia Ruslanova, Tatiana Okunevskaya; composers S. Kaidan-Deshkin (author of the pioneer anthem), Paul-Marcel Rusakov. Artists Václav Dvorzecki and Georgiy Zhzhenov became the pride of the Soviet theater and cinema after their release from the camp.

The modern Magadan Music and Drama Theatre and the Vorkuta Drama Theatre lead their history from the camp clubs of the Sevvostlag and Vorkutlag. Imprisoned musicians, singers, and actors participated in their stage productions. For several years, clubs have been reorganized into professional theaters. The future People's Artist of the USSR, prisoner Georgiy Zhzhenov, and legendary singer, prisoner Vadim Kozin performed in the Magadan Theater. The artistic director of the Vorkuta Theater was the former chief director of the Bolshoi Theatre, a professor at the Moscow Conservatory, prisoner Boris Mordvinov.

1.



1. Camp orchestra on the construction of the Soroka-Obozerskaya railway. Soroka ITL, 1940. GA RF

2.



2. The program of the performance "Wedding in Malinovka," staged in the Music and Drama Theater of Vyatsky ITL of the NKVD. 1944. GMIG

“When you remember years of work in the camp theater, you unwittingly catch yourself thinking — but it was an unreal and surreal world! We are on stage in tails dancing and singing, and our brothers are dying in the dungeons — in mines. Does it not resemble a feast during the plague? Every minute we could find ourselves in the place of those who suffered underground.

Here is one of these cases. In the operetta ‘Rose Marie’, staged by Mordvinov in 1945, most of the parts were performed by imprisoned artists. But the title role was played by a free singer, Vera Makarovna Pyaskovskaya. I played the part of Emil, her brother, and Sergey Yakovlevich Rebrikov — the part of Jim Kenyon, the gold digger. The husband of Vera Piaskovskaya was a big camp chief named Chepyga. It seemed to him that the love scenes between Rose Marie (his wife) and Jim (the prisoner) looked very, very natural. Tormented by jealousy, he immediately wrote off Seryozha Rebrikov, a professional opera singer with a wonderful baritone, for general works. In all theaters of our country, cancan was banned. Here, in a disastrous polar concentration camp, visitors to the theater could enjoy this forbidden fruit. The all-powerful ruler of Vorkuta, General Maltsev lifted the ban on cancan! Cancan on permafrost — isn't it fantastic?”

**FROM MEMOIRS OF A FORMER CONVICT A. MARKOV.
STORY “CANCAN ON PERMAFROST” FROM THE BOOK “NOTES OF A HARD LABOR CONVICT
IN VORKUTA ‘E105” BY E. MARKOVA**



3, 4. Magadan Music and Drama Theater named after M. Gorky. The end of the 1940s. International Memorial

5. Actor G. Zhzhenov at the beginning of his career. The film “Komsomolsk.” 1935. From the magazine “Ogonek,” 1988



The performance
of the orchestra.
Tulomstroy. GMIG





СССР

НАРОДНЫЙ КОМИССАРИАТ
ВНУТРЕННИХ ДЕЛ

"30" мая 1940г.

№ 2161/5

г. Москва

Мин. Михаилу Берия
Прессу разобрали.
В. Молотов
 14/6
 25

С Н К Советов С С Р

товарищу МОЛОТОВУ В.М.

Лагерная рабочая сила, занятая на строительстве крупнейших промышленных предприятий, железнодорожных магистралей, морских судоверфей, специальных объектов оборонного значения, а также на разработке и вывозке леса, не используется полностью ввиду крайне плохого обмундирования и недостаточного питания заключенных.

По данным на 1-е апреля 1940 года наличие слабосильных (в результате плохого питания) в лагерях НКВД составляло 123.000 человек и не выходили на работу из-за полного отсутствия обуви и одежды несколько десятков тысяч человек. Это приводит к излишнему напряжению с рабочей силой и большим убыткам в лагерях.

Создавшееся положение явилось прямым результатом того, что Постановление ЦК ВКП(б) и СНК СССР об улучшении довольствия и быта заключенных Наркомторгом СССР не выполняется, и, наоборот, отпуск продовольствия и вещевого довольствия ГУЛАГ'у НКВД, как это видно из приводимой ниже таблицы, уменьшается с каждым кварталом.

По отношению к минимальной потребности ГУЛАГ'а НКВД, по нормам утвержденным Экономсоветом при СНК СССР, в продовольствии и вещево-довольствии, фактический отпуск продукции за три последних квартала выразился в следующих процен-тах:

М-780сс

Зосимана под
прилр 81-4407.

1. The report of the Narkom of Internal Affairs of the USSR L. Beriya to the Chairman of the SNK of the USSR V. Molotov dated May 30, 1940. RGASPI

2. The certificate on the state of the detention regime of prisoners in the Sredne-Belsky camp of the NKVD. 1941.

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С П Р А В К А

О состоянии режима содержания заключенных в
Средне-Бельском лагере НКВД.

Лагерное население Средне-Бельского лагеря на 1-е марта 1941г. составляет 4.622 человека.

По имеющимся в ГУЛАГ"е НКВД СССР данным заключенные обеспечены жилой площадью только на 18%, остальной контингент лагеря размещен в непригодных к жилью землянках и палатках.

На Комендантском лагерном пункте, третьем и четвертом отделениях, заключенные спят на голых нарах в летней одежде.

Около 3.000 заключенных не имеют тепло" одежды и обуви.

Вследствие разутости и раздетости имеют место среди заключенных отказы от работ. Только по одному 3-му отделению число отказчиков ежедневно достигает до 100 челов. а в целом по лагерю до 200-300 человек ежедневно.

Питание заключенных налажено плохо. Имели место факты массового отказа заключенных от приема недоброкачественной пищи (в июле и августе м-цах 1940 года).

мв-3

22

НКВД СССР

СОВЕРШЕННО СЕКРЕТНО

ОПЕРАТИВНЫЙ ОТДЕЛ

ГУЛАГ'а

1 " ноября 1941 г.

м. 45/4338.

РАЗОСЛАТЬ:

тов. ЗАВГОРОДНЕМУ

СПЕЦСООБЩЕНИЕ

*Лично
в Загор. отд.
Докладчик В. Берия*
(С.И.)

Заболееваемость и смертность среди заключенных Северо-Печорского лагеря НКВД принимает угрожающие размеры.

В августе с.г. умерло 322 заключенных, в сентябре, по неполным данным - 692 заключенных за 9 дней октября с.г. - 210 заключенных.

Наибольшее количество смертных случаев имеет место в результате заболеваний пеллагрой и гемоколитом при полном истощении.

В сентябре умерло на почве заболеваний пеллагрой 161 заключенный, на почве заболеваний гемоколитом при полном истощении 123 заключенных.

Имеется смертельные случаи вследствие несвоевременной госпитализации больных, отсутствия надлежащей медицинской помощи и нормального лечения в лазаретах.

Бытовые условия заключенных тяжелые, отсутствует достаточное количество одежды, питания плохое.

Секретный
ГУЛАГ'а НКВД СССР
3/21 1941 г.
Вх. № 382

3. The special message of the Operations Division of the GULAG dated November 1, 1941. GA RF

4. The message of the Prosecutor of the USSR V. Bochkov to the Narkom of the Internal Affairs L. Beriya on the serious nutritional situation and high mortality among prisoners of the Sevurallag.

Сов.Секретно

экз. № _____

14 февраля

42

17/445с

НАРОДНОМУ КОМИССАРУ ВНУТРЕННИХ ДЕЛ ССР

товарищу БЕРИЯ Л.П.

По сообщениям прокуроров Севураллага и Севпечлага в указанных лагерях создано тяжелое положение с питанием заключенных - вследствие чего среди заключенных недопустимо высокий процент смертности.

Так, например, в Севураллаге за 28 дней января от истощения умерло 896 человек. Заключенным выдают по 150-200 грамм хлеба. На работу не выходят 12 тысяч человек заключенных.

В Севпечлаге вследствие отсутствия продуктов питания, только за первую половину января с.г. умерло 590 человек, при чем продуктов в запасе не имеется.

Кроме того, в Севпечлаге задерживается отправка освобожденных бывших заключенных, вследствие отсутствия транспорта.

Сообщая о вышеизложенном на Ваше усмотрение, одновременно прошу Вашего распоряжения о производстве расследования и наказания виновных лиц.

В. БОЧКОВ.-

Handwritten signature:
W. G. ...

CHAPTER 7. LIBERATION

CHRONOLOGY:

MARCH 5, 1953

Death of Stalin. The beginning of the process of liberation and rehabilitation of victims of mass repression.

MARCH 27, 1953

The decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the USSR "On amnesty." Based on this document, over one million people were released from camps, colonies, and prisons

1954–1957

The lifting of restrictions in the legal status of exiled and special settlers and their release from exile and special settlement.

FEBRUARY 25, 1956

Report of N. Khrushchev "On the cult of personality and its consequences" at the closed session of the 20th Congress of the Communist Party.

MARCH 24, 1956

Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the USSR "On consideration of cases against persons serving sentences for political, official and economic crimes."

OCTOBER 25, 1956

The Council of Ministers of the USSR and the TsK KPSS recognized as "inexpedient the continued existence of corrective-labor camps of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the USSR as they did not ensure the fulfillment of the most important state task — redeployment of prisoners in labor," and decided to "reorganize the labor camps of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the USSR into corrective-labor colonies."

OCTOBER 27, 1956

By order of the MVD of the USSR, the Chief Administration of Corrective-Labor Camps and Colonies was reorganized into the Chief Administration of Corrective-Labor Colonies.

The death of Stalin on March 5, 1953, stopped mass repression for political reasons. The difficult process of return and rehabilitation began for the victims of Stalin's terror. The top leadership of the country spoke of the need to restore "socialist legality."



1. N. Khrushchev on the tribune of the 20th Congress of the Communist Party. February 1956. International Memorial

2. Released early on parole. From the photo album of visual agitation of subdivisions of the North-Ural ITL. 1956. GA RF

3, 4. Farewell to Stalin. Pictures from the film "In the days of great grief of the people." 1953. RGAKFD

ACCORDING TO THE DECREE OF THE PRESIDUM OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE USSR "ON AMNESTY" AS OF MARCH 27, 1953, 1,201,738 PEOPLE (53,8% OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PRISONERS) WERE RELEASED FROM CAMPS, COLONIES, AND PRISONS. 104 CAMPS, 1567 COLONIES AND CAMP SUBDIVISIONS WERE SHUT DOWN AND 180,034 EMPLOYEES OF THE CAMP SECTOR WERE RETRENCHED. THAT NUMBER INCLUDED 109,206 SECURITY EMPLOYEES.

“There are 2,526,402 prisoners in corrective-labor camps, prisons, and colonies... The maintenance of numerous prisoners in camps, prisons, and colonies, among which there is a significant part of the convicts for crimes that do not pose any danger to society, including women, adolescents, the elderly and sick people, is not caused by the necessity of the state.”

FROM A NOTE BY THE MINISTER OF THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE USSR L. BERIYA TO THE PRESIDUM OF THE TSK KPSS AS OF MARCH 26, 1953

“10. [...] do not apply the amnesty to persons sentenced for over 5 years for counter-revolutionary crimes, major embezzlement of socialist property (worth over 50,000 rubles), banditry, and meditated murder.”

FROM THE ORDER OF THE MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE USSR, MINISTER OF JUSTICE OF THE USSR AND GENERAL PROSECUTOR OF THE USSR DATED MARCH 28, 1953 "ON THE POLICY OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECREE OF THE PRESIDUM OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE USSR 'ON AMNESTY' AS OF MARCH 27, 1953"



5. The article about the disease and death of Stalin. Newspaper "Pravda." March 6, 1953.



6. From the photo album of visual agitation of subdivisions of the North-Ural IITL. 1956. GA RF

FROM MAY 1954 TO MARCH 1956, THE CENTRAL AND LOCAL COMMISSIONS ON RECONSIDERATION OF THE CASES OF PERSONS CONVICTED OF COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY CRIMES REVIEWED 337,183 CASES. DECISIONS ON TERMINATION OF CASES, REDUCING SENTENCES, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECREE ON AMNESTY, AND RELEASING FROM THE EXILE WERE MADE FOR 153,502 CONVICTS (45.5%).

After the arrest of L. Beriya, the highest judicial, party and government bodies received tens of thousands of applications, complaints, petitions in which prisoners and relatives of repressed complained of illegal conviction of counter-revolutionary crimes and requested a review of criminal cases. Many letters suggested the establishment of special commissions to review cases of political prisoners.

“... 467,946 prisoners convicted of counter-revolutionary crimes are being held in camps, colonies, and prisons, and 62,462 persons are exiled after serving the sentence for counter-revolutionary crimes. To identify cases of unjustified conviction of citizens and their subsequent rehabilitation, we consider it necessary to specifically review all criminal cases against persons convicted of counter-revolutionary crimes by all judicial and extrajudicial bodies and detained in camps, colonies, and prisons of the MVD of the USSR, as well as persons who are exiled to a settlement after serving their sentences for counter-revolutionary crimes. To review the cases and make the necessary decisions on them, we consider it expedient to form a Central Commission...”

FROM A NOTE BY R. RUDENKO, S. KRUGLOV, I. SEROV, AND K. GORSHENIN TO THE PRESIDUM OF THE TsK KPSS ON THE ORGANIZATION OF A CENTRAL COMMISSION TO REVIEW THE CASES OF THE PRISONERS CONVICTED FOR “COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY CRIMES” AND CONTAINED IN CAMPS, COLONIES AND PRISONS, AND EXILED TO SETTLEMENTS. MARCH 19, 1954



1. The Poles, who were former prisoners of Vorkutinsky ITL. 1955. Photo from the collection of T. Kizna

2. The certificate of termination of the case for lack of corpus delicti and cancellation of the sentence imposed by the Military Collegium dated May 30, 1940, with respect to I. Cherdantsev. December 29, 1955. GMIG Archive

3. Composer P.-M. Rusakov at the conductor's panel. Lenconcert. 1958. GMIG

4. The dismantled monument to Stalin at the city dump. Vorkuta, 1961. Photo from the collection of T. Kizna

ON MAY 4, 1954, THE PRESIDIUM OF THE TsK KPSS ESTABLISHED THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND LOCAL COMMISSIONS TO REVIEW THE CASES OF THE PERSONS WHO HAVE BEEN CONVICTED OF COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY CRIMES.

Set up and operated by repressive bodies, the commissions have left more than half of the counter-revolutionary cases in force. Historian Lev Gumilev, the son of the poet Anna Akhmatova, was among those who were denied release after reexamination of their case by the Central Commission.

The 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, held in Moscow at the Kremlin Palace from 14 to 25 February 1956, was the most important prerequisite for the official liquidation of the GULAG. This Congress went down in history thanks to the report “On the cult of personality and its consequences.” The First Secretary of the TsK KPSS N. Khrushchev read the secret report at the closed session of the Congress on the last day of its work.

4.



“... It turns out that many of the party, Soviet, economic workers who were declared ‘enemies’ in 1937–1938 were never real enemies, spies, pests, etc. In essence, they always remained honest communists, but they were slandered, and sometimes, unable to withstand brutal torture, they themselves (under the dictation of investigators — falsifiers) slandered themselves of incredible accusations. [...]

...The actions initiated by Stalin are outrageous and constitute a gross violation of the main Leninist principles of the national policy of the Soviet state. We are talking about mass evictions of entire nations, including all communists and Komsomol members, from their homes with no exceptions. And military considerations did not dictate this kind of eviction.”

**FROM THE SECRET REPORT “ON THE CULT OF PERSONALITY AND ITS CONSEQUENCES”
BY N. KHRUSHCHEV AT THE 20TH CONGRESS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY.
FEBRUARY 25, 1956**

“Yet Khrushchev's step — from wildness to civilization, from animal instincts to enlightenment of the mind, from irrationality to responsibility-stirred the society, which objectively served the movement to freedom.”

FROM THE BOOK “TWILIGHT” BY A. YAKOVLEV, PAGE 259

1, 197, 847 PEOPLE FROM THE NUMBER OF REPRESSED CITIZENS WERE REHABILITATED FROM 1953 TO 1962.



1. A former prisoner A. Bukharina-Larina with the suitcase which was with her during imprisonment and exile. Photo courtesy of Steven Cohen

2. A former prisoner E. Kersnovskaya with her mother. The first meeting in 20 years. Essentuki, 1958. GMIG

3. Photo from the investigation file of L. Gumilev. Reed camp (Special camp № 10), 1953. Photo courtesy of L. Voznesensky

4. A. Akhmatova with her son L. Gumilev. International Memorial

Under the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the USSR “On the examination of cases against persons serving sentences for political, official and economic crimes” as of March 24, 1956, 97 commissions of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the USSR were created. They included 375 members of the party executives, Soviet workers, and highly qualified lawyers. Commissions have completed their work by October 1, 1956. In total, they reviewed cases of 176,325 people. Of this number, 100,139 persons were released. The sentence was reduced for 42,016 convicts.

“I talk about liberation so casually, because that is the way I got it: I experienced no emotions or desires at that moment. I remember only devastation and confusion: where should I go, where should I live and work?”

**FROM MEMOIRS OF A SOCCER PLAYER AND THE FOUNDER OF THE FC “SPARTAK MOSCOW”
N. STAROSTIN**

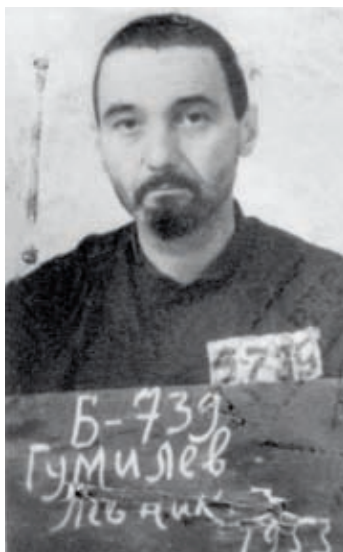
“I am rehabilitated.

For twenty years this hour seemed like a threshold to a radiant future. But with joy came the feeling of rejection, inferiority. No one will return the best twenty years of life, no one will raise the dead friends. No one will tie the torn and dead threads that connect us with loved ones. The return to life is a difficult process.”

FROM MEMOIRS OF A FORMER CONVICT O. ADAMOVA-SLIOZBERG

After returning from places of their sentences, former GULAG prisoners faced many life problems. They needed rest and treatment, employment and housing, pensions and medical care. Along with the joy of liberation many had to experience a bitter sense of rejection and inferiority, because not only they have lost the best years of their lives, but also friends and relatives. Gaining freedom was not always been accompanied by full judicial rehabilitation. For hundreds of thousands of former GULAG prisoners, the process of restoring rights, justice, and a good name has stretched out for many years and it continues today.

3.



4.



Указ Президиума Верховного Совета СССР ОБ АМНИСТИИ

В результате упрочения советского общественного и государственного строя, повышения благосостояния и культурного уровня населения, роста сознательности граждан, их честного отношения к выполнению своего общественного долга укрепилась законность и социалистический правопорядок, а также значительно сократилась преступность в стране.

Президиум Верховного Совета СССР считает, что в этих условиях не вызывается необходимостью дальнейшего содержания в местах заключения лиц, совершивших преступления, не представляющие большой опасности для государства, и своим добросовестным отношением к труду доказавших, что они могут вернуться к честной трудовой жизни и стать полезными членами общества.

Президиум Верховного Совета СССР **постановляет:**

1. Освободить из мест заключения и от других мер наказания, не связанных с лишением свободы, лиц, осужденных на срок до 5 лет включительно.

2. Освободить из мест заключения осужденных, независимо от срока наказания, должностные и хозяйственные преступления, а также за воинские преступления, предусмотренные ст.ст. 193-4 п. «а», 193-7, 193-8, 193-10, 193-10 «а», 193-14, 193-15, 193-16 и 193-17 п. «а» Уголовного Кодекса РСФСР и соответствующими статьями уголовных кодексов других союзных республик.

3. Освободить из мест заключения, независимо от срока наказания, осужденных: женщин, имеющих детей в возрасте до 10 лет, и беременных женщин; несовершеннолетних в возрасте до 18 лет; мужчин старше 55 лет и женщин старше 50 лет, а также осужденных, страдающих тяжелым неизлечимым недугом.

4. Сократить наполовину срок наказания осужденным к лишению свободы на срок свыше 5 лет.

5. Прекратить производством все следственные дела и дела, не рассмотренные в суде, о совершенных до издания настоящего Указа преступлениях:

а) за которые в законе предусмотрено наказание в виде лишения свободы на срок до 5 лет или другие меры наказания, не связанные с содержанием в местах заключения;

б) должностных, хозяйственных и воинских преступлениях, перечисленных в статье 2 настоящего Указа;

в) совершенных лицами, указанными в статье 3 настоящего Указа.

По другим делам о преступлениях, совершенных до издания настоящего Указа, которые в законе предусмотрено лишение свободы на срок свыше 5 лет, суд, если признает необходимым избрать меру наказания в виде лишения свободы не свыше 5 лет, освобождает подсудимого от наказания, если же суд признает необходимым избрать меру наказания в виде лишения свободы на срок свыше 5 лет, — сокращает срок наказания наполовину.

6. Снять судимость и поражение в избирательных правах с граждан, ранее судимых и отбывших наказание или досрочно освобожденных от наказания на основании настоящего Указа.

7. Не применять амнистии к лицам, осужденным на срок более 5 лет за контрреволюционные преступления, крупные хищения социалистической собственности, банкам и умышленное убийство.

8. Признать необходимым пересмотреть уголовное законодательство СССР и союзных республик, имея в виду заменить уголовную ответственность за некоторые должностные, хозяйственные, бытовые и другие менее опасные преступления мерами административного и дисциплинарного порядка, а также смягчить уголовную ответственность за отдельные преступления.

Поручить Министерству юстиции СССР в месячный срок разработать соответствующие предложения и внести их на рассмотрение Совета Министров Союза ССР для представления в Президиум Верховного Совета СССР.

Председатель Президиума Верховного Совета СССР **К. ВОРОШИЛОВ.**

Секретарь Президиума Верховного Совета СССР **Н. ПЕГОВ.**

Москва, Кремль. 27 марта 1953 г.

1. The decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the USSR "On amnesty." Newspaper "Pravda." March 28, 1953.

2. The letter by A. Akhmatova to the Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the USSR K. Voroshilov with a request to release her son, L. Gumilev. February 8, 1954. GA RF

625/KB¹⁶
10. II. 54.

ГЛУБОКОУВАЖАЕМЫЙ КЛИМЕНТ ЕФРЕМОВИЧ!

Умоляю Вас спасти моего единственного сына, который находится в исправительно-трудовом лагере /Омск, п/я 125 / и стал там инвалидом.

Лев Николаевич Гумилев /1912 г.р./ был арестован в Ленинграде 6 ноября 1949 г. органами МГБ и приговорен Особым Совещанием к 10 годам заключения в ИТЛ.

Ни одно из предъявленных ему на следствии обвинений не подтвердилось - он писал мне об этом. Однако, Особое Совещание нашло возможным осудить его.

Он мой отбывает срок наказания вторично. В марте 1938 года, когда он был студентом 4-го курса исторического факультета Ленинградского университета, он был арестован органами МВД и осужден Особым Совещанием на 5 лет. Этот срок наказания он отбыл в Норильске. По окончании срока он работал в качестве вольнонаемного в Туруханске. В 1944 году, после его настойчивых просьб, он был отпущен на фронт добровольцем. Он служил в рядах Советской армии солдатом, и участвовал в штурме Берлина /имел медаль "За взятие Берлина"/.

После Победы он вернулся в Ленинград, где в короткий срок окончил университет и защитил кандидатскую диссертацию. С 1949 г. служил в Этнографическом музее в Ленинграде в качестве старшего научного сотрудника.

см. н/об.

ЗАКРЫТОЕ ЗАСЕДАНИЕ

25 февраля 1956 г., утреннее

БУЛГАНИН (председательствующий). Переходим к докладу "О культе личности и его последствиях".

Слово для доклада предоставляется тов. Хрущеву Н.С.

После доклада тов. Хрущева Н.С.

БУЛГАНИН. На рассмотрение с"езда вносится следующий проект постановления XX с"езда "О культе личности и его последствиях" (зачитывает проект постановления).

Постановление принимается с"ездом единогласно.

БУЛГАНИН. Имеется в виду, что доклад тов. Хрущева Н.С. и принятое с"ездом постановление "О культе личности и его последствиях" не публикуется в настоящее время, но эти материалы будут разосланы партийным организациям.

Это предложение принимается с"ездом единогласно.

ПОСТАНОВЛЕНИЕ XX С"ЕЗДА

КОММУНИСТИЧЕСКОЙ ПАРТИИ СОВЕТСКОГО СОЮЗА

"О культе личности и его последствиях"

(Принято единогласно 25 февраля 1956 г.)

Заслушав доклад тов. Хрущева Н.С. о культе личности и его последствиях, XX с"езд Коммунистической партии Советского Союза одобряет положения доклада Центрального Комите-

- 2 -

та и поручает ЦК КПСС последовательно осуществлять мероприятия, обеспечивающие полное преодоление чуждого марксизму-ленинизму культа личности, ликвидацию его последствий во всех областях партийной, государственной и идеологической работы, строгое проведение норм партийной жизни и принципов коллективности партийного руководства, выработанных великим Лениным.

Н. С. Хрущев

5.



МИНИСТЕРСТВО ЮСТИЦИИ РСФСР

ЛЕНИНГРАДСКИЙ ГОРОДСКОЙ СУД

Ленинград, Фонтанка, 16

Телефоны: Ж 3-10-81, Ж 3-64-14

12 января 1956 г.

44-у-0134/55г

С п р а в к а

Видене Русакову Поль-Марсело Александровичу 1906 г. рождения в том, что Постановлением Президиума Ленинградского Городского Суда от 30 декабря 1955 года уголовное дело от 29 ноября 1937 года в отношении его производством прекращено за недоказанностью виновности.



Председателя Ленгорсуда
/ Беркенов /

Беркенов

При ответе обязательно сослаться на наш № и дату

6.

Форма № 30



Военная Коллегия
Верховного Суда
Союза ССР

С П Р А В К А

22 марта 1956 г.
№ 4Н-02167/56

Москва, ул. Воровского, д. 13.

Дело по обвинению МИХАЙЛОВА Сергея Гавриловича пересмотрено Военной Коллегией Верховного Суда СССР 10 марта 1956 года.

Приговор Военной Коллегии от 25 августа 1938 года в отношении МИХАЙЛОВА Сергея Гавриловича по вновь открывшимся обстоятельствам отменен и дело за отсутствием состава преступления прекращено.



ПРЕДСЕДАТЕЛЯ ВОЕННОЙ КОЛЛЕГИИ
ВЕРХОВНОГО СУДА СОЮЗА ССР
ПОЛКОВНИК ЮСТИЦИИ

се.

/В. БОРИСОГЛЕБСКИЙ/

В. Борисоглебский

6. Cancellation of the sentence pronounced by the Military Collegium of the Supreme Court of the USSR dated August 25, 1938, and dismissal for lack of corpus delicti with respect to S. Mikhailov. March 22, 1956. GMIG Archive

7. The certificate of review the case of M. Krizhanovsky by the Military Court of the Moscow Military District and cancellation of the decision of the Board of the OGPU of May 22, 1933. The case was dismissed for lack of corpus delicti. M. Krizhanovsky was rehabilitated posthumously. September 10, 1957. GMIG Archive

8. The certificate on cancellation of the sentence pronounced by the Military Collegium of the Supreme Court of the USSR dated June 19, 1938, and dismissal for lack of corpus delicti with respect to I. Dragunsky. Dregunsky was rehabilitated posthumously. October 26, 1956. GMIG Archive



**ВОЕННЫЙ ТРИБУНАЛ
МОСКОВСКОГО
ВОЕННОГО ОКРУГА**

10. сентября 1957 г.

№ Н-2120/ос

г. Москва, Арбат, 37

СПРАВКА

Дело по обвинению КРИЖАНОВСКОГО Михаила Васильевича, 1894 года рождения, до ареста 17 февраля 1933 года работавшего старшим зоотехником "Совэптицепродукты" Наркомснаба СССР, пересмотрено Военным Трибуналом Московского Военного округа 5 сентября 1957 года.

Постановление Коллегии ОГПУ от 22 мая 1933 года в отношении КРИЖАНОВСКОГО Михаила Васильевича отменено и дело о нем прекращено за отсутствием состава преступления.

КРИЖАНОВСКИЙ Михаил Васильевич реабилитирован посмертно.

ЗАМ. ПРЕДСЕДАТЕЛЯ ВОЕННОГО ТРИБУНАЛА МВО
ПОЛКОВНИК ЮСТИЦИИ

гш

/Н.ГУРИНОВ/

8.



**Военная Коллегия
Верховного Суда
Союза ССР**

26 октября 1956 г.

№ 4н-018988/56

Москва, ул. Воронского, д. 13.

Форма № 30

СПРАВКА

Дело по обвинению ДРАГУНСКОГО Исаака Львовича пересмотрено Военной Коллегией Верховного Суда СССР 20 октября 1956 года.

Приговор Военной Коллегии от 19 -го июня 1938 года в отношении ДРАГУНСКОГО Исаака Львовича по вновь открывшимся обстоятельствам отменен и дело за отсутствием состава преступления прекращено.

ДРАГУНСКИЙ И.Л. реабилитирован посмертно.

ПРЕДСЕДАТЕЛЬСТВУЮЩИЙ СУДЕБНОГО СОСТАВА
ВСЕННОЙ КОЛЛЕГИИ ВЕРХОВНОГО СУДА СССР
ПОЛКОВНИК ЮСТИЦИИ

аш

/СТУЧЕК/

CHAPTER 8. THE MEMORY ABOUT VICTIMS OF THE REPRESSION

CHRONOLOGY:

SEPTEMBER 28, 1987

A Commission of the Politburo of the TsK KPSS was established for the additional study of materials related to repression that took place in the period 1930–1940s and the beginning of the 1950s.

JULY 4, 1988

The Politburo of the TsK KPSS adopted the resolution of “On the construction of a monument to victims of lawlessness and repression”.

1989

The Memorial Society was officially established.

JANUARY 16, 1989

The Presidium of the Supreme Council of the USSR adopted the decree “On additional measures to restore justice to victims of repression that took place during the 1930s–1940s and early 1950s.”

JUNE 28, 1989

The Politburo of the TsK KPSS adopted the resolution of the “On the perpetuation of the memory of victims of repression from the period of the 1930s–1940s and early 1950s.”

AUGUST 13, 1990

The President of the USSR adopted the decree “On the restoration of the rights of all victims political repression of the 1920–1950s.”

OCTOBER 18, 1991

The Law of the Russian Federation “On the rehabilitation of victims of political repression” was adopted. It is in force to the present day. The nationwide Day of Remembrance of Victims of Political Repression was established on October 30.

2001

The State GULAG History Museum was created.

AUGUST 15, 2015

The Concept of State Policy to perpetuate the memory of victims of political repression was approved by the decree of the Government of the Russian Federation.

APRIL 18, 2016

The Foundation “Perpetuation the memory of victims of political repression” (Memory Fund) was established at the initiative of the GULAG History Museum.

OCTOBER 30, 2017

The President of Russia V. Putin opened the first national memorial to victims of political repression — “The wall of grief” (Moscow).

In the second half of the 1980s, a new wave of rehabilitation began, due to a change in the country’s political course (“perestroika”). In 1987, the Political Commission of the TsK KPSS was created to study materials about the repression in mid-century. In 1988, N. Yakovlev, a member of the Politburo, became its executive. The work of the Commission contributed to understanding of the national history. In 1989 and 1991, legal acts of the Supreme Council of the USSR on declaring repressive acts against forcibly relocated nations illegal were adopted.

1.



2.



1. Monument of the memorial complex “Norilsk Calvary.”

2. Memorial “Mask of Sorrow,” dedicated to the memory of victims of political repression, opened on June 12, 1996, not far from Magadan. Sculptor — E. Neizvestny

STARTING 1990, THE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE VICTIMS OF POLITICAL REPRESSION IS HELD ANNUALLY ON OCTOBER, 30. DURING THE THREE YEARS, FROM 1989 TO 1991, OVER 130 MONUMENTS AND MEMORIAL SIGNS WERE ESTABLISHED ON THE INITIATIVE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS TO COMMEMORATE THE MEMORY ABOUT VICTIMS OF POLITICAL REPRESSION. TODAY, THE NUMBER OF MONUMENTS AMOUNTS TO OVER 1200.

In 1996, the “Mask of Sorrow” monument was opened in Magadan. According to the author, sculptor Ernst Neizvestny, “Masks of Sorrow” should be installed in three locations: Magadan, Vorkuta, and Yekaterinburg. Magadan and Vorkuta were the largest sites of the GULAG. Sverdlovsk (now Yekaterinburg) was the main transfer point for prisoners sent to the Far North and Kolyma. On November 20, 2017, the second monument was opened near Yekaterinburg on the 12th kilometer of the Moscow tract, on the site of the former firing range: “Triangle of Sorrow” — “Masks of Sorrow: Europe — Asia.” The third monument is still not created.

3.



3. The Memorial Complex
“Norilsk Calvary.”

FROM AUGUST 8, 1937 TO OCTOBER 19, 1938, 20,762 WERE SHOT AT THE BUTOVO RANGE.

Because of the work of the Yakovlev's Commission, many places of mass executions and graves were found and made public, among them Kommunarika, Butovo, Levashov, Kurapaty. The first Books of Memory listing the names of victims of repression appeared. In the early 1990s, the largest firing ranges “Kommunarika” and “Butovo” in Moscow and “Levashovo” in Saint Petersburg were opened for the visits of relatives of the repressed.

Since that time, the search for other places of mass graves of victims of terror began. In 1996, a memorial was opened at the mass graves site near Yekaterinburg. In the late 1990s, a mournful cross was erected in the natural boundary Sandarmokh (Karelia), which became a cemetery for tens of thousands of special settlers who were shot, convicts of Belbaltlag and Solovki camps.



1. Memorial “Butovo Range”
The place of mass executions
and burials. Moscow.

2. The monument to victims
of political repression,
shot and buried at the site
“Kommunarika.” Moscow.

3, 4. Levashovo Memorial
Cemetery. Saint Petersburg.

DURING 1991–2014, 3,510,818 PEOPLE WERE REHABILITATED. 265,085 PEOPLE WERE IDENTIFIED AS VICTIMS OF POLITICAL REPRESSION AND REHABILITATED (THEY WERE CHILDREN OF REPRESSED PERSONS).

In 2001, the GULAG History Museum was opened in Moscow. It was founded by a famous historian, publicist and the public figure of A. Antonov-Ovseenko, who lived through the Stalin camps and exile as the son of the “enemy of the nation.” The collection of the Museum includes an archive of documents, letters, memories of former prisoners of GULAG; a collection of convicts' belongings and items of related to the history of detention; a collection of works of art created by artists, who were at the GULAG, and contemporary authors, offering their own understanding of this topic. The museum is a public space for presentation, study, and discussion of current problems in the history of mass repression, forced labor, and lack of political freedom in the USSR.

In February 2017, the GULAG History Museum opened the Documentation Center, where every visitor has a possibility to examine archival documents, thematic literature, and artifacts, as well as learn how to find information about repressed relatives.



The opening of the new exhibition of the GULAG History Museum in November 2015.

1.



1. The memorial "Mask of Sorrow," dedicated to the memory of victims of political repression, opened on June 12, 1996, near Magadan. Sculptor — E. Neizvestny.

2. The monument dedicated the victims of political repression "Solovetsky Stone" was installed in Moscow on Lubyanka Square. The inscription on the pedestal: "This stone from the territory of the Solovetsky special camp was delivered by the Memorial Society and erected in memory of the millions of victims of the totalitarian regime. October 30, 1990, Day of the political prisoner."

2.



3.



3. The Memorial to victims of political repression
"Wall of Grief" (Moscow). Sculptor — G. Frangulyan.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ASSR — Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic
AHU — Administrative and Economic Management

Belbaltlag — White Sea-Baltic ITL

Dalstroy — Main Directorate of Construction of the Far North Directorate
of the Corrective-Labor Colonies

GA RF — State Archive of the Russian Federation
GMIG — State GULAG History Museum
GPU — State Political Administration
GUGB — Chief Administration of the State Security
GULAG — Chief Administration of Corrective-Labor Camps and Colonies
GULGMP — Chief Administration of Camps for the Mining and Metallurgy Industry
GULZhDS — Chief Administration of Camps for Railroad Construction

International Memorial — The international historical, educational, charitable
and human rights society “Memorial”
ITL — forced labor camp Karlag — Karagandinsky ITL

Kolkhoz — collective farm
KPSS — Communist Party of the Soviet Union

MGB — Ministry of State Security
MGU — Moscow State University
MVD—Ministry of Internal Affairs
MYu — Ministry of Justice

NKVD — People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs
Norillag — Norilsky ITL

OGPU — Joint State Political Administration

PB, Politburo — Political Bureau

RGALI — Russian State Archive of Literature and Art
RGANI — Russian State Archive of Contemporary History
RGASPI — Russian State Archive of Socio-Political History
RGVA — Russian State Military Archive
RKP(b) — Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks)
RSFSR — Russian Soviet Federal Socialist Republic
RF — Russian Federation
RVSR — Revolutionary Military Council of the Republic

Sangorodok — sanitary town; a camp site where the camp hospital was located
Sevvoslag — Northeast ITL Sibltag — Siberian ITL
SLON — Solovetsky Special Designation Camp

TsIK — Central Executive Committee
TsK — Central Committee of the Communist Party
TsKb-29 — Central Design Bureau-29
TsKK — Central Control Commission

USLAG — Department of Solovetsky Corrective-Labor Camp
USSR — Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

VChK — All-Russian Extraordinary Commission
VKP(b) — All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks)
Vorkutlag — Vorkutisky ITL
VSNKh — Supreme Economic Council
VTsiK — All-Russian Central Executive Committee
Vyatlag — Vyatskiy ITL

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The GULAG History Museum is open from Tuesday to Sunday from 12:00 to 21:00. The Museum is closed on Mondays and on the last Friday of the month.

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WE INVITE YOU TO VISIT OUR PERMANENT EXHIBITION

The permanent exhibition of the Museum introduces the history of the repressive system in the USSR in the period of 1920–1950s, starting with the creation of the first concentration camps and until the shut down of the camps of the GULAG system after Stalin's death.

LECTURES, PLAYS, CONCERTS, SCREENINGS, CREATIVE EVENINGS IN THE MUSEUM

The Museum hosts lectures, performances, concerts, film screenings, creative evenings and performances offering figurative insight into the topic of repression. The information about events can be found on the Museum website gmig.ru. Concerning the organization of events: + 7 495 681 88 82, events@gmig.ru.

DOCUMENTATION CENTER

If you would like to know how to find information about repressed relatives, please contact the Museum's Documentation Center: + 7 495 681 61 89 ext. 22-23, doc@gmig.ru.

SCIENTIFIC LIBRARY

A collection of books on the history of the GULAG and political repression can be found on in the Museum's Scientific Library. The catalogue and the working hours of the library are published on the website of the Museum: gmig.ru. Concerning the work of the Library: 7 495 681 61 89, biblio@gmig.ru.

HOUSE ON THE EMBARKMENT

The “House on the Embankment” is a department of the GULAG History Museum located in the famous Government House on Serafimovich Street. Website: dnmuseum.ru.

MUSEUM COLLECTIONS

The Museum gratefully accepts photos, memoirs, letters and documents, personal belongings of the repressed and camp artifacts. For the transfer of items to the collection of the Museum you can contact the Department of Accounting and Storage of Funds: + 7 495 681 15 29, fond@gmig.ru.

MY GULAG

Verbal testimonies of participants in the events and their relatives are important to the museum, therefore, since 2013, the Studio of Visual Anthropology has been recording video interviews with people who have been through repression and the GULAG. If you or your family members have been affected by the repression of the Stalin era, and you do not want the memory about these events to go into oblivion, — please contact us: + 7 495 621 73 46, mygulag@gmig.ru. The recorded video interviews are published on the website of the project “My GULAG”: mygulag.ru.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

The Research Department of the Museum studies the history of Soviet mass repression, takes part in international and all-Russian conferences, and round tables. To contact the department staff: + 7 495 681 61 89, nauka@gmig.ru.

EDUCATION CENTER

Interaction with schoolchildren, students and teachers is one of the priorities of the Museum. The projects of the educational center of the Museum can be found on the website gmig.ru. Concerning the work of the Center: + 7 495 681 88 82, obraz@gmig.ru.

SOCIAL AND VOLUNTEER CENTER

The Museum has a Social and Volunteer Center that supports victims of political repression. Museum volunteers escort elderly people to medical institutions, help around the house, provide legal assistance, organize leisure and support morally. To become a volunteer, just fill out a form on the Museum website. Concerning the work of the Center: + 7 495 681 64 18, help@gmig.ru.

MOBILE EXHIBITIONS

The Museum organizes stationary and mobile exhibitions based on the collection and in collaboration with other museums, archives, institutes, publishing houses, public organizations, cultural and educational centers. To contact the Exhibition Department of the Museum: + 7 495 621 73 35, expoizition@gmig.ru.

ASSOCIATION OF RUSSIAN MUSEUMS OF MEMORY

The GULAG History Museum initiated the creation of the Association of Russian Museums of Memory, which includes 32 museums of 27 cities of the country. You can learn about the work of the association on the website memorymuseums.ru.

INTERACTIVE MAP OF THE GULAG

The GULAG History museum developed the interactive map of the GULAG, a growing database on history and geography of corrective-labor camps, which existed on the territory of the USSR from 1918 to 1960. The map is available online at gulagmap.ru.

Document Center of the GULAG History Museum

4th Floor

Photo from the archive
of A. Rodchenko
and V. Stepanova



Assistance in finding
information about
repressed relatives

Scientific Library

Archive of video interviews
of the project "My GULAG"

Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sa
Admission is free
1-st Samotechny, 9, b. 1

12:00 pm – 21:00 pm

doc@gmig.ru



A NETWORK OF CAMPS EMERGED ON THE TERRITORY OF THE USSR IN 1929-1930. THEY WERE OFFICIALLY