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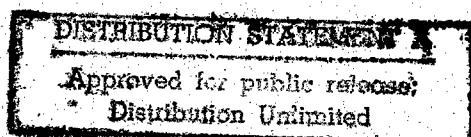
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USSR Report

MILITARY AFFAIRS



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21 March 1984

USSR REPORT

MILITARY AFFAIRS

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ARMED FORCES

FAILURE TO PROVIDE VETERANS WITH APPROPRIATE HOUSING NOTED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Jan 84 p. 4.

[Article by Lt Col Justice I. Vashkevich: "After Being Released Into the Reserve--Follow-up on a Letter"]

[Text] There comes a day in the life of the officer, the sea-going or shore-based warrant officer, when he has to decide where he is going to settle and what he is going to take up. Aware of the fact that the large centers can accept far from all of them, many veterans select the small towns after relinquishing their apartments where they were stationed in the service. We have thousands of these towns in our nation. In some cases, however, people wait years for new housing instead of the legally established 3 months. This was precisely the subject discussed in a letter received by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA from the city of Tarusa, Kaluga Oblast.

"We had no such problem until the spring of 1982," Major I. Vorotilkin, rayon military commissar, commented on the letter during our meeting. "We simply did not have servicemen released into the reserve or retirement with the right to housing on a preferential basis. I am certain that the problem would not be so acute today, however, if the gorispolkom were strictly adhering to the ordinance covering the situation."

It would be difficult to disagree with this conclusion.

Captain of Technical Service (Reserve) V. Mirskov, who was the first on the waiting list for housing here, was registered in March of 1982. He and his wife needed a one-room apartment. Housing in a building belonging to the repair and construction section was distributed in April. Only a single one-room apartment was assigned to the ispolkom in that building, however. It was given to the widow of a front-line fighter. It was as though the officer's family had been forgotten. Nor did they remember it 4 months later, when a building belonging to the rayon union of consumer cooperatives was occupied--or later. In the meantime other reserve officers and warrant officers were arriving in the town. In less than 2 years the list had grown to seven, without one of them having been provided with housing.

"Unfortunately, we do not engage in housing construction ourselves," V. Chertkov, chairman of the gorispolkom, explained the situation. "Everything built here

belongs to enterprises of various departments. As you know, only 10 percent of the housing is assigned to the ispolkom. We try to give it to those most in need."

All of this is true. Since the waiting list of the military commissariat was begun in the city the ispolkom has not assigned very many apartments. And these have included only two one-room apartments. But just what was keeping them from asking for more? After all, the ispolkom received both two- and three-room apartments during that period. Perhaps these apartments were needed for those authorized to receive improved housing on a priority basis?

No, there were no such individuals among those moving into new housing, neither those receiving housing from the ispolkom's fund nor workers of the enterprises and organizations which built the housing. The housing commission has simply not considered the special legal status of army and navy veterans.

This is also the way M. Khodin, first secretary of the Tarusa party raykom, assessed the inexcusable delay in providing housing for reserve officers and warrant officers arriving in the town. And there is no other way to assess it, because the state has not granted an ordinary benefit to these people but one with a specific period of time for its realization. The fairness of this procedure is obvious. Reserve officer Valentin Ivanovich Mirskov has served 27 years in the army. He gave up a comfortable apartment and came to the town of his youth, where those near and dear to him live. And after many years of difficulties, hardships and deprivations in the military service, the individual finds himself without a roof over his head. One cannot ignore all of this when it comes to providing him with housing, of course.

"We shall think about it. We shall resolve this problem as well," I was assured by the first secretary of the raykom.

The town should not concern itself with just the proper distribution of the ispolkom's housing fund. We can see that it is not a large one in Tarusa. But the town needs doctors, teachers and other specialists. It needs to concern itself with disabled veterans of the Patriotic War, families of those who were killed, and labor veterans. In this situation I feel that the problem of providing housing for reserve officers and warrant officers should be resolved together with other tasks facing the town and its party organization. This means simultaneously demonstrating concern for finding an apartment for the veteran of the Armed Forces, finding him a job and also making use of his expertise and experience in the mass defense work and indoctrination of the youth.

There are already some examples of this in Tarusa. Engineer-Lieutenant Colonel (Reserve) O. Kondrat'yev recently moved to the town and took charge of the rayon civil defense staff, and Engineer-Lieutenant Colonel (Reserve) V. Begunov went to work at a motor vehicle enterprise as acting supernumerary chief of the local civil defense staff. The benefit from these people--highly rated specialists and experts in military affairs--in their new careers is apparent. We have to assume that both of the reserve officers will soon be provided also with housing--from the organizations in which they work.

Unfortunately, however, such cases are still not the rule here. The military commissariat has discussed a job for reserve officer Mirskov only in general terms. Why was he not offered a job back then, in March of 1982, in the Selkhoztekhnika administration or in the repair and construction section, for example? Perhaps not in 3 months, but at least by now the individual would have been provided with housing. And this would have been done without any detriment to the ispolkom's housing fund. Even today many of the town's enterprises are readying their own apartment buildings for occupancy, and they also need specialists, including specialists in the field of reserve officers and warrant officers waiting for housing.

It is not such an easy matter for veterans to find jobs at these enterprises, however. The enterprise leaders understand that such people have to have housing immediately, and they therefore refuse to hire them under the most diverse pretexts. Neither the raykom nor the gorispolkom has properly assessed these facts yet. Nor did the rayon public prosecutor know about them until I arrived. Providing the reserve officers and warrant officers with enterprise housing constitutes an additional possibility for resolving the problem which has arisen in the town.

...Veterans of the Armed Forces are coming to the town. It is the duty of local party and soviet organs and military commissariats to assure the strict observance of their rights, their employment and their active participation in the military-patriotic work. This is entirely possible. It is possible in the town to which the alarming letter from a reader of the newspaper led me.

11499

CSO: 1801/187

ARMED FORCES

DISABILITY, OTHER MILITARY BENEFITS DESCRIBED

Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 17 Jan 84 p 4

[Interview with Col Justice V.F. Vandyshev by correspondent V. Fedyayev: "Benefits for Officers Released into the Reserve"]

[Text] The editors receive letters asking about benefits and privileges for officers of the Armed Forces of the USSR released into the reserve. At the request of our correspondent V. Fedyayev, Colonel of Justice V.F. Vandyshev of the USSR Ministry of Defense answers some questions from our readers.

[Question] Please tell us about housing benefits established for officers released into the reserve or retirement.

[Answer] According to Article 77 of the Law of the USSR, "On Universal Military Duty," officers released into the reserve or into retirement are provided with housing by the executive committees of local soviets of people's deputies. Officers released into the reserve or into retirement for reasons of health, age or a personnel cut are provided with housing on a priority basis no later than 3 months after their arrival at a place of residence selected in accordance with the existing registration procedure.

This benefit does not apply to officers released into the reserve, who have been drafted for 2 or 3 years of active military duty.

Officers with guaranteed housing at their former place of residence have 6 months in which to occupy the housing after they have been released. Officers released into the reserve or into retirement, who are provided with housing at their service site and who do not desire to change their place of residence after being released, have the right to retain the housing which they occupy. Officers who have served irreproachably at least 25 calendar years in the military service and have been discharged into the reserve or into retirement for reasons of age or health, retain the right to receive housing at the special rates provided for officers on active military duty. Individuals with the rank of colonel or the equivalent, or a higher rank, who are discharged into the reserve or into retirement are entitled to additional living space.

Senior and higher officers who have served at least 25 calendar years in the military service, as well as other officers who have served at least 25 years and been released into the reserve or into retirement for reasons of health, age or personnel cuts, are assigned plots of land for individual housing construction. When necessary, they are granted loans for building a house.

[Question] What are the main benefits established for such individuals with respect to work?

[Answer] The executive committees of local soviets of people's deputies and those in charge of enterprises, installations, organizations, kolkhozes and educational institutions are required to provide officers released into the reserve or into retirement with work in their specialty no later than 1 month from the day on which they applied. Those who worked at enterprises or installations or in organizations prior to being drafted for active military duty are entitled to a job at the same enterprise or installation or in the same organization from which they were drafted. Furthermore, officers called up from the reserve for a 2- or 3-year term or active military duty must be provided with a position no lower than that which they occupied prior to being drafted.

An officer's active military duty is included as part of his total length of employment, regardless of whether he was employed prior to entering the military service. The period of active military duty is also included in the uninterrupted length of service for officers released into the reserve or into retirement, if they take a job or enroll for training within 3 months of the day they were released, exclusive of travel time to their place of residence. Under the same terms, as of 1 August 1983, the officers' military service is counted as uninterrupted length of work (regardless of when it was performed), for which the old-age pension is increased by 20 percent.

The time spent on active military duty by officers released into the reserve or into retirement is included as length of service in their specialty in accordance with current laws. Specifically, the time spent on active military duty by reserve officers called up for a 2- or 3-year period is counted as length of service in their specialty, if they begin working again in the specialty acquired prior to being drafted no later than 3 months after being released into the reserve (this period can be extended for valid reasons). The period of active military duty for young specialists with a higher or secondary specialized education, who are drafted into the Armed Forces of the USSR, also counts toward a mandatory period of work following their graduation from an educational institution.

For officers released into the reserve or into retirement from military units in areas of the Far North and equivalent locations, who have returned to work in the same areas or at the same locations within 3 months following their release, their period of uninterrupted military duty (including regular duty) in the indicated areas or at the indicated locations is considered as uninterrupted length of work, which entitles them to the benefits established for areas of the Far North.

[Question] What educational benefits are provided for officers released into the reserve or into retirement?

[Answer] Officers released into the reserve or into retirement, who were drafted for active military duty during their period of study at educational institutions, are entitled to register or to continue in their studies at the same educational institution and in the same course in which they were studying prior to being drafted into the military service. Their stipend is established from the day they reenter the educational institution based on the results of the regular examination session. Officers released from active military duty for reasons of health, age or personnel cuts are accepted without taking the entrance exams:

--those with a complete or incomplete higher military education--for the first and subsequent classes at higher educational institutions; graduates of secondary general education schools--at preparatory departments of VUZ's, with a stipend; those who have completed secondary military educational institutions--in the first and subsequent classes of secondary, specialized educational institutions; those who have completed at least the 8th grade--in the first class of secondary, specialized educational institutions.

Officers with a secondary education released into the reserve from the Armed Forces may register (regardless of when they were released into the reserve) without competition if they receive passing scores on the entrance exams. Officers released into the reserve may register on a priority basis for studying at VUZ's while working full-time. Officers released from active military service without a pension, who are students at daytime higher and secondary, specialized educational institutions or students in the preparatory departments of VUZ's are also paid a stipend if their grades are satisfactory. Officers released into the reserve are given priority for entering vocational and technical training institutions or enrolling in courses of training in corresponding fields. They are paid a stipend during the period of training.

[Question] Are other benefits and privileges provided for officers released into the reserve or into retirement?

[Answer] Officers receiving a pension and members of their families are granted all types of medical and prosthetic aid at civilian health facilities and facilities of the Union republic ministries of social security by the procedure and under the terms in effect for pensioned blue- and white-collar workers and members of their families. Officers who have served abroad and have been discharged into the reserve or into retirement for reasons of health and their wives are exempted from the taxes paid by bachelors, single individuals and citizens of the USSR with small families for the period of illness, but no longer than 1 year from the day of their release from the service. Officers who have become disabled as a result of wounds, injuries, mutilations or illnesses suffered while defending the USSR or in the performance of other duties involved in the military service are entitled to a disability pension. Officers are also entitled to a lifetime pension for long service.

For officers who are war veterans and are receiving pensions for serving 20 years or more, who have worked as blue- or white-collar workers after being released into the reserve and have earned the right to an old-age pension established by social security agencies, the old-age pension may be computed not on the basis

of their earnings but on the basis of the official rate of pay for their position and military rank prior to being released into the reserve.

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CSO: 1801/187

ARMED FORCES

ARMY SPORTS CLUB HOCKEY TRAINER CHARGED WITH EMBEZZLEMENT

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Jan 84 p 4

[Article by Lt Col (Reserve) I. Chukalin, master of sports, and Col A. Zakharenko, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent: "A Decline--on the Subject of Morals"]

[Text] "By authority of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics... found guilty... sentenced to imprisonment... forbidden to work as a trainer for the next 5 years...."

The severe but just sentence of the military tribunal in the Far East Military District applied to V. Yegorenko, until recently chief and senior trainer for the hockey team of the Khabarovsk SKA (Army Sports Club). He was still a lieutenant at that time. It was articles of the republic's Criminal Code on liability for large-scale embezzlements and crimes of office applied to him with irrefutable proof. During those minutes we could see not only the dejected look on the face of the accused: Members of the Army Sports Club and colleagues--trainers and young sportsmen who had trusted their mentor--were also obviously not themselves.

It took almost a month for the case to be heard, and the question was asked more than once during the proceedings: How could an officer, the leader of a well-known sports team, sink to this?

There is nothing in Yegorenko's history which would presage trouble. As a boy he had enthusiastically chased the puke over the ice on the Amur. He was noticed by some trainers, who helped him become a good hockey player, a member of the Khabarovsk team of the SKA, which was gaining strength at that time. In time Yegorenko became the best player on his team, the most notable figure on the ice and the most authoritative in life. When it came time to make way for the young sportsmen, he was the acknowledged leader of the team and took over the team as its trainer. After completing his training at an institute Yegorenko was appointed chief of the team.

Yegorenko worked hard. In 1979 an old dream of the team and of hockey fans of the Far East came true: The Khabarovsk SKA made it to the championship of the USSR (first league). At the club and in the district sports committee this success was linked mainly with Yegorenko's name. And the team's leader, elevated to the skies, actually believed that he had a miraculous power. Whatever had happened to the modesty which had only recently been a part of him. He was

always saying: "I made the team and I can take it down again if I want to." More and more frequently the young trainer would treat the team unethically. ("I haven't paid back the money I borrowed from a hockey player? I'll return it, but if he presses me too hard for the money, I'll take him off the team.") Then came the final, direct abuses of his position. A young sportsman would join the team, he would have to pay up. One would be discharged to the reserve and join another team; he would also have to make his contribution ("Otherwise, this is what I'll write about you...") In short, Yegorenko kept the team in a state of fear.

They knew about all of this of course, in the sports club, which was headed at that time by officer A. Tur. How could they fail to know it, when the training and practice on the team suddenly began to rapidly deteriorate, and the team, to put it bluntly, was no longer prepared for a serious effort to win a top place. Something had to be done at once, and "as an emergency measure" they invited a well-known master of the past, who had experience with the Central Sports Club of the Army and the nation's mixed team, to come from Moscow and take over as chief of the team. And what they had waited for a long time, happened: The Far East team won the Cup of the Armed Forces at the beginning of 1980. Naturally, the name of the new chief began to appear in orders and in the press. Yegorenko's ambition and his unhealthy vanity began to manifest themselves even more. He stopped attending the practice sessions altogether: Let the new star try to work without me.... He lost all interest in the team.

It only appeared this way, however. The court established the fact that this clever trick of Yegorenko, who had acquired a taste for unearned money, lasted just long enough for him to appropriate more than 3,000 roubles. When he helped arrange for meals for the hockey players, he fraudulently reported almost half of the money allocated for this as spent at messing facilities of whose existence the team had no idea, and then appropriated these "unutilized" funds. He put them in his own pocket, of course.

Those in charge of physical training and sports, district rear service workers and the finance agency of the army's sports club noticed none of this. With their connivance Yegorenko made up for his lack of laurels with a substantial monetary reward. Furthermore, he soon condescended to return to performing his direct duties. And no one asked himself about the moral standards by which the highly opinionated Yegorenko was living and working.

Too late, the answer to this question was provided by facts considered by the military tribunal. There is obviously no need to list all of the foul behavior of this "indoctrinator" of sportsmen, and it would be extremely unpleasant to do so. Large amounts of money turned over to him for the fictitious renting of ice, for organizing assemblies and feeding the hockey players continued to stick to his fingers. The trainer stole from those in his charge every way he could. He also stole from the state.

It would seem that no matter how twisted the thread, the end could be found, that it was time to punish the hand stretched out for state funds. However... Yegorenko was reappointed chief of the team to replace the distinguished master, who had suddenly returned to Moscow. Wasn't this a surprising decision on the

part of Colonel V. Postnikov, new district chief of physical training and sports? He had apparently felt sorry for the trainer and also felt that it was not in his interest to air the dirty linen in public.

It was not so easy to conceal what had happened, however--specifically, the embezzlement of large sums of money. Reports on this matter finally reached the district finance agency. Colonel of Indendance Service V. Artamonov, an inspector, scrupulously reviewed the documents sent to the SKA. He was considered to be an experienced worker, but he failed for some reason this time. He did not detect serious violations in Yegorenko's financial statements.

Something strange was beginning to happen at the time. The hockey players actually found themselves with no ice to practice on, no equipment and no bus. The practice sessions came to a halt. Sportsmen who would not go along were removed from the team in large numbers and with extraordinary ease. They included, Warrant Officer F. Polyakov, former secretary of the Komsomol organization, Warrant Officer S. Kotov, Soviet Army employee V. Snazinov, permanent team captain, and others. There was an obvious effort to destroy the team. It was only the position of principal and intervention by the district sports committee which made it possible to halt the process, behind which, as the court brought out, lay an attempt by Yegorenko and those protecting him to evade responsibility for the embezzlements and malfeasance. Yegorenko was finally removed from his position.

His duty now consisted in meeting regularly with workers of the Khabarovsk Garrison's Judge Advocate's Office. Even these soon came to an end, however. A mysterious, official document, figuratively speaking, somehow found itself in the possession of the SKA chief. It stated that the "facts surrounding Yegorenko's embezzlement of money have not been confirmed." Only the intervention of the Chief Judge Advocate's Office has resulted in a criminal suit being brought against Lieutenant V.A. Yegorenko.

You probably think that this was the end of it? No, Yegorenko has unexpectedly been returned to the team. He is now traveling to Novosibirsk, Ust'-Kamenogorsk and other places, where he committed his former crimes, in an attempt to hide the traces. He is attempting to apply pressure to the hockey players with his "rigid" methods....

Those present received the military tribunal's guilty verdict in Yegorenko's criminal case with approval. They still felt some sort of inner dissatisfaction, however: Why had those who had contributed to his downfall gotten off with a slight scare?

11499

CSO: 1801/187

ARMED FORCES

LETTERS TO KRASNAYA ZVEZDA EDITOR, RESPONSES

Readers' Comments

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Dec 83 p 2

[Collection of letters published under the overall title: "Readers' Suggestions"]

[Text] In response to the appeal to readers (KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, 18 October), the editors continue to receive suggestions, advice, and remarks of our chief correspondent. Some of them are published below.

It is with interest that I read materials which investigate problems in uniting the troop collective. I believe that this subject should become one of the main ones in the newspaper. For victory in contemporary battle is unthinkable without that combat cohesion of people who are close in spirit and with which the Soviet servicemen were so strong in the years of the Great Patriotic War.

Lieutenant Colonel A. Pomortsev,
Red Banner Odessa Military District

We all know the worth of the deceitful words of the U.S. administration concerning peace. Under their cover, the American imperialists have begun to emplace new nuclear missiles in Western Europe. The older generation knows that in preparing for the treacherous attack of our motherland the fascist clique of Germany also took cover behind profuse talk about peace. Therefore, we veterans of the Great Patriotic War fervently approve the Statement of Comrade Yu. V. Andropov which again gives a worthy response to Washington which has declared a "crusade" against socialism. We want the hearts of the Soviet servicemen to be ablaze with hatred for the latter-day "crusaders." With the same hatred which helped us to smash the fascists. To teach your reader the science of hatred for the aggressor and for the enemies of peace and socialism--this is my main desire for the newspaper.

P. Pivovarov, veteran of the Great
Patriotic War, Kuybyshev

Military articles should appear in the newspaper more often. We military readers have a great need for them. What attracts us first and foremost in them? A fresh idea, unstereotyped solution of a subject, novelty of arguments, and the author's original tactical thought. It is precisely the intelligent, business-like military article which helps KRASNAYA ZVEZDA always to be loyal to the word which it gave on 1 January 1924 in connection with the publication of its first edition in its appeal to the readers: to be the laboratory of Army's and Navy's military thought.

Lieutenant Colonel S. Petruk.
Order of Lenin Transbaykal Military
District

Today's newspaper suits me completely. But it should be better tomorrow. Make it more combat-oriented, fundamental, and addressed to a broad readership. In reading it, let each Soviet person sense its unbreakable tie with our Armed Forces which are vigilantly standing guard over the security of the USSR and the countries of the socialist commonwealth.

Colonel (Reserve) Y. Zubov, Kiev

It is with interest that I read KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, especially the Saturday edition. But its first page does not satisfy me. Here you often encounter materials which are similar to one another. In my opinion, this page should contain effective information which is saturated with interesting experience.

Captain-Lieutenant Yu. Bakhmatov
Red Banner Black Sea Fleet

The entire people needs your materials about the Soviet servicemen who are performing with honor their international duty in Afghanistan. Show in them in complete grandeur our serviceman whose valor, courage, and nobility are truly infinite.

V. Vlasova, Moscow

V. Mayakovskiy compared the song and poetry with the bomb and banner. This is the force and attractiveness which all literary publications of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA should possess. Especially military-patriotic songs which, for some reason, are not on the pages of the newspaper. And such a song--I recall the time at the front--always called for an exploit in the name of the beloved motherland. I propose that a contest for the best military-patriotic song be announced in the newspaper.

A. Nartymov, veteran of the Great
Patriotic War, Perm'

I understand that a military newspaper should have a severe looking face. But, most likely, it can also smile. For even at the front we did not get by without satire and humor. Let this genre be lucky in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, too.

Warrant Officer [praporshchik] A. Dvornik, Red Banner Kiev Military District

Letters Discuss Specialist Training

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Dec 83 p 2

[Collection of letters published under the overall title: "We Discuss the letter: "Proficiency Rating High. What About Skill?"]

[Text] On 27 November KRASNAYA ZVEZDA published a letter from Engineer-Lieutenant Colonel V. Gurgenedze which posed the question of raising the professional training of the personnel and a more demanding approach to the awarding of the proficiency rating. Today we publish the first set of readers' letters.

The Commander Teaches

Warrant Officer [praporshchik] A. Solomentsev remembers that bygone case even today. One of the blocks in the signal equipment failed. It was necessary to detect efficiently and eliminate the malfunction. Solomentsev checked the readings of the built-in instruments--everything was within norms. Again, he "went through" all the units, now even more thoroughly--and again without any result. He sat in perplexity: what could be wrong? The chief of the station dropped into the equipment room and inquired as to what the problem was. Then he performed several manipulations on the equipment and it began to operate.

How Solomentsev was distressed because he did not discover the malfunction himself! For it proved to be very simple: a contact in the connector was broken. The chief of the station, a master of communications, calmed him: "We will study and master the new equipment together."

And then it became the custom for the officer and the warrant officer to remain in the training classroom for hours and study the circuits of the units.

The experience, knowledge, and skill acquired with the assistance of senior comrades cannot remain the personal property of a person. Warrant Officer Solomentsev now thinks and proceeds in this manner. A skillful specialist, he generously transmits his knowledge to his fellow-servicemen.

Engineer-Senior Lieutenant V. Ignat'yev,
Red Banner Siberian Military District

Battle Makes Strict Demands

In my opinion, the letter of Engineer-Lieutenant Colonel V. Gurgenedze, "Proficiency Rating High. What About Skill?" touched on an important and burning question. Actually, there are still frequent cases where the professional training of specialists does not correspond in full measure to the ratings which have been awarded to them.

Why does this occur? The letter's author provides some answers to this question. In addition to the reasons which he indicates, I believe that much here turns on the incomplete understanding, by individual servicemen, of the obvious truth that they should be engaged in the mastery of equipment and the improvement of

their skill daily, persistently, and purposefully, not pausing or stopping in training even for a day. Meanwhile, some officers and warrant officers, having achieved first successes, cease to improve their professional training.

Officers are also encountered, especially among the young ones, who do not display initiative in the mastery of equipment and its combat capabilities. And often, in so doing, they feel calm and unconcerned.

I recently had a talk with Engineer-Lieutenant Colonel Yu. Gor'kavyy. The officer of the armament service said with concern that a sense of healthy pride and responsibility for their professional competence is poorly developed in individual young officers of the unit. Others do not consider it shameful to call for the help of the specialists of the armament service with the slightest malfunction in the equipment although they themselves have engineers' diplomas.

Senior Lieutenant V. Kobzev, for example, noticed when tuning a system's receiver that the control and measuring instrument had stopped providing readings. Not taking the trouble to analyze what had happened, he called the armament service: equipment had broken down, send an engineer. Engineer-Captain A. Plakhotnyuk soon arrived in the subunit. Hardly stepping across the threshold of the cabin, he saw that the instrument cable was broken. That was the entire defect.

In telling about these and other cases, Engineer-Lieutenant Colonel Gor'kavyy noted that the striving of some officers to make do with the store of knowledge obtained in the school is too obvious. But here, it should be added that this is encountered more often where exactingness toward officers is lowered in questions of their professional training.

Here much also depends on attention to young officers on the part of experienced fellow-servicemen and masters.

"For this is what happens at times," mused one lieutenant acquaintance. "An engineer came to the subunit, eliminated the malfunction, and departed. Neither explanations nor recommendations followed here. Look, and the same defect appeared another time. And again it causes difficulties for you. And an officer of another battery has his own difficulties. Why not assemble us, the lieutenants, let us say, once a month so that we could hear the recommendations of the best specialists and exchange work experience?"

And here in an adjacent regiment they regularly conduct assemblies of chiefs of sections and platoon leaders, the program of which permits the young specialists to learn both about the innovations in equipment and the specifics and fine points in operating the armament which is found in the unit.

What has been said, in my opinion, confirms the truth that the growth in the skills of the specialists is higher the more effectively the training-indoctrinational process is organized in the subunit and unit. It should always be remembered: real combat makes strict demands on each one for professional training. There will be no allowances for anyone.

Lieutenant Colonel A. Yakovlev
Order of Lenin Leningrad Military District

Party Punishes Abuses

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Dec 83 p 2

[Article: "A Pheasant for Prestige"]

[Text] A topical satire by Colonels A. Drovosekov and N. Murav'yev which was published under this heading on 16 September told about the violations of state discipline and the abuse of service status by Engineer-Colonel L. Nikitin and other officials.

Engineer-Colonel V. Sysoyev and Colonel V. Shvetsov informed the editors that all facts were completely confirmed. The newspaper article was discussed with commanders, political officers, and chiefs of departments and services, in primary party organizations, and at officers' calls and was adjudged correct and received approval.

For unscrupulousness and abuse of their service status CPSU members Colonel M. Chorny was reprimanded with an entry in his record card, Lieutenant Colonel I. Lyashkov received a severe reprimand with an entry in his record card, and Major of Intendance Service A. Gruzdev received a severe reprimand. Party punishments were also meted out to communists Lieutenant Colonel A. Detkov, Majors A. Boychuk and A. Matsokin, and Captain G. Vernyak.

Officers M. Chorny, V. Orlov, and A. Gruzdev were also warned about incomplete service compliance. Engineer-Lieutenant Colonel V. Tsymbal received a severe reprimand and rear-services personnel Colonel L. Ishchenko and Captain S. Baran--a reprimand. By order of the Soviet Minister of Defense Engineer-Colonel L. Nikitin was released to the reserve without the right to wear the military uniform.

The kindergarten which was discussed in the topical satire has received major reconditioning and furniture and toys have been purchased. Accounting for the products of the unit welfare farm and monitoring their distribution have been organized. Measures to improve work with personnel and strengthen party, state, and military discipline have been outlined and are being implemented.

The first deputy chief of the political directorate of the Baltic Military District, Major General Ye. Makhov, informed the editors that the topical satire "A Pheasant for Prestige" was discussed in the party organization of the political directorate. For unscrupulousness committed at his former place of service and failure to adopt measures to stop violations of state discipline, CPSU member Colonel L. Snegirev received party punishment--a reprimand.

Punishment for Poor Housing Maintenance

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 8 Dec 83 p 2

[Article: "Complaints Go in a Circle"]

[Text] This was the title of our correspondent's commentary on the readers' mail which was published in the newspaper on 23 October. It presented cases of

callousness and red tape in the solution of problems connected with the repair of two residential buildings in the city of Kaliningrad.

As was reported to the editors by the first deputy chief of the political directorate of the Baltic Fleet, Rear Admiral V. Semiletenko, the facts presented in the publication correspond to reality. By now all repair work on one of the houses has been completely accomplished, and on the other will be completed by the end of the year.

For delay in repairs, a reprimand was issued to the former chief of the construction organization conducting the repair, Engineer-Colonel P. Reshetnikov. A reprimand was also issued to Engineer-Colonel I. Odintsov who now heads the organization.

Failure to adopt timely measures against those guilty of the low quality of construction work and poor monitoring of the consideration of complaints and statements was strictly pointed out to the deputy fleet commander for construction, Engineer Major General V. Skuratov, and the chief of the political department of the Baltic Fleet Construction Directorate, Colonel Yu. Yepifanov.

Disciplined Officers

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 December 1983 p 2

[Article: "...And the Company Fired Well"]

[Text] The report by Captain B. Khudoleyev published under this title on 21 September discussed shortcomings in the tactical-firing training in the N-th Motorized Rifle Regiment, in particular in the battalion where the chief of staff is Guards Captain A. Nikolayev.

The editors received an answer from the first deputy chief of the political directorate of the Baltic Military District, Major General Ye. Makhov. In it, he reports that the facts noted in the report occurred. The newspaper article was discussed at a conference of command personnel of the large unit, at a regimental officers' call, and in party and Komsomol organizations of the sub-units.

For poor organization of the company tactical exercise with live firing and for indulgences and simplifications which were permitted here, officers A. Nikolayev and Ye. Shars received disciplinary punishment.

Training Films Criticized

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Dec 83 p 2

[Letter by Capt 1st Rank V. Shlomin: "Once More About Training Films"]

[Text] More than 10 years ago, an article was published in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA about the necessity for training films on the history of military art. They listened to the newspaper's article. During past years, the motion picture studio of the Soviet Ministry of Defense released about 15 documentary training films on operations of the Great Patriotic War. In my opinion, successful and causing great interest among the students of military academies and officer candidates of the schools.

At the same time, experience in the use of films in the training process permits introducing some suggestions. It is usually necessary to show segments rather than the entire film. When creating new films it is expedient to avoid details and repetition and to divide it more clearly for composition into two parts--the preparation of the operation and its course. It is important to consider that films wear out in the course of operation and that new copies should be made in good time.

Up to now, the problem of making motion picture films on the history of naval art has not been solved. Only one film has been created and is being actively used--on the actions of Soviet submariners. In the archives, to the best of my knowledge, there are interesting materials on naval newsreels. For example, frames on the landing of an amphibious force in Feodosiya were remembered from the war years.

Creating two instructive films on the work of the rear services organs in the Great Patriotic War, the studio of the Soviet Ministry of Defense then relaxed attention to this subject matter and placed a third film in reserve. This can only be regretted.

According to the evaluation of methodologists, the training film occupies the highest place among all means of technical support of the training process. Attention to it should be appropriate.

Corrective Action Follows Criticism

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Dec p 2

[Article: "After Articles in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA"]

[Text] An Addition

A report by Lieutenant Colonel A. Andryushkov was published under this heading on 15 November. It discussed facts of the abuse of service status and omissions in political-indoctrinational work by the commander of an air training regiment, Colonel V. Slepukhov.

As reported to the editors by the member of the military council and chief of the political directorate of the Moscow Military District Air Forces, Lieutenant General of Aviation A. Singayevskiy, all the facts set forth in the report were confirmed.

Shortcomings in personal behavior and omissions in service were also pointed out to Colonel Slepukhov earlier, but the officer did not draw the proper conclusions for himself.

The party commission with the political department of the Tambov Higher Military Pilot Aviation School imeni M. M. Raskova reprimanded communist Slepukhov strictly with an entry in his record card for additions to accrued flying time, eyewash, and the use of service status for personal purposes. Communists commanders of subunits Lieutenant Colonels M. Milovanov and A. Novikov as well as the deputy squadron commander for political affairs, Major N. Mikarov, were called to party account.

The political department of the district's Air Forces plans to conduct a seminar with new party commission personnel with the political organs on the practice of indoctrinating command personnel in a spirit of lofty party discipline.

The military council and the political department of the district Air Forces consider the critical article of the newspaper to be correct and are adopting measures to raise the responsibility of command personnel for their accomplishment of their service duty.

The Lesson Was Not of Use

This was the title of a report by Colonel G. Verbitskiy which was published on 15 October. It disclosed shortcomings in the organization of socialist competition in the surface-to-air missile battalion of the N-th Unit. As reported to the editors by the political officer, Colonel V. Andreyev, the facts were confirmed. The newspaper article was discussed in the unit's party organizations. Specific measures have been adopted to eliminate the shortcomings noted in the report. Accounting for the accomplishment of socialist obligations by the officers has been organized in the unit headquarters. Measures have been conducted on propagandizing leading experience. Displays of the experts of combat and political training and the best specialists have been made up in all subunit Lenin Rooms.

The paragraph of the order on the illegal awarding of an increased rating to Lieutenant A. Alekhin has been revoked.

Editors Thank Readers for Comments

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Jan 84 p 4

[Article: "Thank You, Readers"]

[Text] Dear Readers!

On the threshold of 1984 the editors of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA turned to you with the request that, at the traditional readers' council, you express your desires and recommendations to the newspaper. In the responses to this appeal as well as at readers' conferences and meetings a concerned, businesslike, and frank conversation took place on how the editorial collective could solve even more successfully the tasks posed for the press by the party.

Not one desire and not one remark remained without the attention of the editorial collective. They helped to enrich the creative concepts and deepen the work plan, and they gave an impetus for new subjects, columns, and sections.

The editors of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA see as their main task in the forthcoming year the even more vivid propagandizing of the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and the November (1982) and June and December (1983) plenums of the CPSU Central Committee, showing widely their realization, and mobilizing the Soviet servicemen for the struggle for a further rise in the combat readiness of the Armed Forces.

Our readers, including Colonel V. Zotov, Guards Major A. Semakhin, Captain 3d Rank V. Kozlov, and others expressed the desire that there be a more profound disclosure of leading experience in the accomplishment of the tasks for field, air, and sea training and the mastery of combat equipment and weapons and that problems in raising the responsibility of military personnel, uniting the troop collectives, and strengthening discipline and organization be posed more sharply. The publication of such materials is envisioned by the editors' plan. Here, special attention will be paid to questions connected with the realization, under the conditions of the Armed Forces, of the requirements of the December (1983) plenum of the CPSU Central Committee for improving the organizational structure of control and the planning system and for introducing into practice effective measures for evaluating the results of labor.

"The newspaper should come out more boldly against formalism in the organization of socialist competition," writes Captain 2d Rank G. Palyutov (Red Banner Northern Fleet). "For it is no secret that success in any matter accompanies precisely those troop collectives where the capabilities of competition are realized most completely." Such opinions are also contained in other readers' letters. We will illuminate systematically the course of the socialist competition which has been initiated in this training year under the slogan, "Be on the alert and in constant readiness for the defense of socialism's achievements!"

The readers evaluate favorably the commentaries of the newspaper's special correspondents and its international observers and they approve the supplement to the Saturday edition and the page "Dialogue. Reader--Newspaper." Many warm words were spoken about the feature stories published under the headings "People of a Great Fate," "Communists in Combat Formation," "The Commander of a Regiment (Ship): Post and Personality," and "Dugout," and about the collections of materials under the headings "Azimuth," "Our Home," and "Search."

Your letters say that we should place the heroic subject in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA even more widely and diversely and should illuminate more completely the most important events of the Great Patriotic War. In inviting to the pages of the newspaper frontline veterans with their letters and recollections, the editors intend to show as broadly and vividly as possible the majesty of the national exploit in the struggle for victory. Preparations for the 40th anniversary of the victory will be used for this.

"Disclose more deeply the tremendous role which our veterans are playing in ensuring the continuity of the great cause of the Leninist party," proposes Major V. Ignat'yev of the Volga Military District in his letter. In listening to this desire, and many other readers also expressed it, the newspaper will devote special attention to how the tremendous life's, political, and combat experience of the veterans of the party, labor, and the war is used in the interests of the further strengthening of the economic and defensive might of the Soviet state and the indoctrination of the youth in a spirit of loyalty to communist ideals.

Just as in the past, so in the present year the newspaper will tell about new achievements of science and culture. We will publish extracts from the works of writers, stories, and poems which have just been created.

Your proposals are being considered when preparing materials on international subjects, and the newspaper will acquaint the readers more often with the life of the peoples and armies of the socialist countries.

Last year, the editors received more than 124,000 letters. It can be said without exaggeration that your letters have become for the editors a sensitive barometer of public opinion and a deep source of the masses' thoughts, experience, and initiative. Many of the newspaper's articles, including critical ones, were prompted by the editors' mail.

We sincerely thank you, dear friends, for the remarks, suggestions, advice, and desires which have been expressed. And we hope for the continuation of our mutually enriching conversation which is helping to make the newspaper more interesting and pithy and to reflect on its pages more completely the life and combat training of the Armed Forces and the life and creative labor of the Soviet people.

The editorial board of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA

Follow-Up on Letters

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Jan 84 p 2

[Article: "After Articles in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA"]

[Text] Do not Weaken Attention

A report by Lieutenant Colonel G. Ivanov and Major Ladin was published under this heading on 1 November 1983. It discussed a number of shortcomings in the organization of treatment and services in the republic hospital for the disabled of the Great Patriotic War and some inconveniences which arose with the movement of the hospital from the center of Alma-Ata.

As reported to the editors by the chief of the Main Administration for Therapeutic- Prophylactic Assistance of the Ministry of Health of the Kazakh SSR, Kh. Sekerbayev, the questions raised in the report were taken under the control of the republic's Ministry of Public Health. The newspaper article was discussed in the hospital at a conference of physicians. The number of buses which go to the hospital at 15-minute intervals has now been increased. The operation of the barber shop has been straightened out. Manufactured goods for the disabled are sold in the hospital twice a week. It is planned to move the snack bar to the main building.

For the disabled of the Patriotic War who have contraindications for treatment under mountain conditions, 5,770 beds have been allocated in all therapeutic-prophylactic institutions and scientific research institutes of the republic. Beginning in November of last year, a specialized department of 70 beds has been allocated in the newly opened first city hospital for the treatment of the war's disabled and veterans residing in Alma-Ata. In 1984-1985, it is planned to open a department of 370 beds for war veterans with the extension to them of privileges which exist for hospitals of the Patriotic War's disabled.

The editors also received a reply from the Minister of Communications of the Kazakh SSR, S. Bayzhanov, in which he reported that in the immediate future a public telephone will be opened with the hospital's communication department and long-distance coin-operated telephones will be installed.

A Grack

A critical report by Lieutenant Colonel A. Manushkin which was published under this heading on 20 November 1983 discussed shortcomings in political-indoctrinational work with the personnel and the abuse of service status and cases of the bending of disciplinary practice by the chief of the air range, Captain L. Marinovskiy and the subunit first sergeant, Warrant Officer [praporshchik] K. Myshko.

As reported to the editors by Lieutenant Colonel I. Katanov, officer Marinovskiy has been relieved of the post which he occupied and assigned with a demotion. A party investigation has been conducted and a decision has been adopted concerning the making of communist Myshko answerable to the party.

A plan has been drawn up and is being implemented to render assistance to the new chief of the range in strengthening prescribed order and military discipline and in improving political-indoctrinational work with the personnel. Measures have been adopted to improve the material-technical base.

Readers' Letters Analyzed

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Jan 83 p 2

[Article: "The Mail of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA"]

[Text] In December 1983, the editors received 10,363 readers' letters. Of them, 536 were published in the newspaper. Six hundred sixty-five responses to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA articles were received. Altogether, 124,674 letters were received during 1983 and 5,962 of them were published.

December's mail reflected the important events which occurred in the last month of the year. Reports of our readers were published on the newspaper's pages concerning the reports and elections of the party organs taking place among the troops and about the preparations for elections to the highest organ of state authority--the Supreme Soviet of the USSR--which have begun in the Armed Forces. The readers' responses which arrived on the eve of the New Year show that the personnel of the units and ships, just as all Soviet people, are studying with tremendous interest and supporting unanimously the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee Plenum which has taken place, the text of the statement by the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Comrade Yu. V. Andropov, and the materials of the 9th session of the USSR Supreme Soviet, 10th convocation.

A sense of pride for their country which is engaged in peaceful creative labor inspires the Soviet servicemen to new successes in service and training. Under conditions of the sharply aggravated international situation they are displaying tireless concern for the further raising of vigilance and their combat skill,

and they are doing everything necessary to reliably guard the fatherland from external encroachments from without. The readers' mail for the first month of winter training tells of the personnel's active participation in the socialist competition which was widely initiated in the Armed Forces under the slogan, "Be on the alert and in constant readiness for the defense of socialism's achievements!"

"There is an excellent company in the N-th Motorized Rifle Regiment," writes Major Yu. Babanov from the Transcaucasus Military District. "It is commanded by Captain S. Senin. Last year the company was the right guide in the competition. And now, according to December's results, it is not giving up first place."

Our reader, Major A. Pervov of the Volga Military District reports on the initiative and tactically competent actions of the tankmen of the subunit commanded by Major V. Grekhov in the execution of a cross-country march. Major V. Zadubrovskiy of the Baltic Military District and Guards Captain of Technical Service A. Antonenko of the Southern Group of Forces tell of how, in the course of the competition, the training base is being efficiently used and leading experience is being studied and employed in practice. There are many letters similar to these in the editors' mail.

However, in analyzing the results of training at the start of the year the readers also speak of the first errors and the vexing mistakes and, at times, also of the irresponsible attitude toward the organization of competition in some subunits. Warrant Officer [praporshchik] N. Stepanov of the Far East Military District is troubled, for example, by the fact that disruptions of the lessons occur in the company where he serves.

Many readers write about the frontline fighters and veterans of the Armed Forces and about their life's experience which the young generation needs.

"The tremendous labor and courage of the veterans is contained in everything of which the Soviet people are proud, value, and admire today," writes Lieutenant Colonel (Reserve) N. Maksimov of the Komi ASSR. "They are amazing people! And we cannot and do not have the right to disregard their life's experience. We should be concerned that the veterans are always where the improvement of the human personality is taking place and characters are being molded."

And these lines from the letter of Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) M. Shevtsov of Kiev: "Our party, the government, and the entire people surrounded the veterans with care, respect, and honor. This is also shown by the meeting of the leadership of the Soviet Ministry of Defense with veterans of the Armed Forces. It greatly touched and excited me. And at that moment I thought: working indefatigably, how should we veterans conduct the military-patriotic indoctrination of the youth? We should not wait for an invitation, but should go ourselves to the educational institutions and the enterprises and be genuinely concerned about worthy replacements for the army formation. There are lots of things for us to do, and our place is on the forward positions of life."

Our profound gratitude to the veterans will never dry up, note the newspaper's readers. Let them always be surrounded by our constant concern and humane

attention. And there will be no place for cases of spiritual callousness or indifference toward deserving people.

The new year of 1984 has begun. We are waiting for new letters from you, dear readers, about life and training in the Armed Forces and about everything with which the routine days of the socialist motherland's defenders are filled.

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ARMED FORCES

LETTERS TO KRASNAYA ZVEZDA EDITOR, RESPONSES

Airline Ticket Problems for Military Personnel

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Jan 84 p 2

[Article: "Airline Ticket Problems--Follow-up on Article in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA"]

[Text] A letter from reader B. Korotkov and replies to it from Colonel S. Doroshin, deputy chief of the Military Transport Service of the Leningrad Military District, and V. Golubkov, chief of the Leningrad Central Air Transport Agency, were published on 2 November of last year under the heading "Airline Ticket Problems." The article discussed why it is difficult to acquire an airline ticket with military travel vouchers in that city.

The editors received numerous letters from readers in response to that article. "Your criticism was directed against the right place," wrote Colonel (Retired) Ye. Boboriko. "I have recently scheduled flights on military business in Minsk, Odessa and Pitsunda. I had no problems. In Leningrad, however, clerks at the rayon ticket offices actually refused to deal with these documents." "The Leningrad clerks will not accept a military voucher even when it is made out for air travel," military employee A. Gavrilov added.

Letters were also received from officers A. Shevchenko, A. Vlasenko, A. Kozyrev, N. Baklin and others.

Major General of Technical Troops Yu. Vorontsov, deputy chief of the Central Military Transport Directorate of the USSR Ministry of Defense, reported that the matter raised by the newspaper has been discussed with workers of the Ministry of Civil Aviation. A manual has been written to simplify the accounting procedure for issuing airline tickets on the basis of military travel vouchers. A training program is going to be set up to teach all clerks how to work with these documents, and the network of ticket offices capable of handling military passengers will be increased substantially by the beginning of the flight season. The military transport services of the military districts have been charged with considerably improving the handling of passengers. The possibility of using the Sirena-II automated system for arranging flights on the basis of military vouchers is also being studied.

Malfeasance, Cover-ups in Subunit

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Jan 84 p 2

[Article by Capt 2d Rank P. Kuznetsov: "They Played the Hypocrite--Follow-up on Letters to Editors"]

[Text] The editors' mailbag contains few such letters. The essence of the letter, more than 10 pages, was the following: In retaliation for justified criticism voiced at meetings the young officer has not been assigned to a position appropriate to his education as an engineer and has not been granted his next military rank. How could we fail to rush off to help in any way we could, the author of the letter--Engineer-Senior-Lieutenant V. Shaposhnikov, technical instructor in one of the Air Force training subunits of the Kiev Military District?

A second letter from that same unit, signed by Engineer-Lieutenant Colonel S. Popov only reinforced our decision. Shaposhnikov's name was not mentioned in the letter, to be sure. It did state the following, however, and almost in his very words: "The 7 April 1983 issue of the newspaper carried an incorrect reply to the critical article written by Engineer-Colonel B. Lyapkalo, a correspondent for the newspaper: "The Costs of the 'By-Product Industry'" (KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 9 January 1983).

Let us refresh the reader's memory with respect to the critical article published in the newspaper and the response received by the editors. The article was about a corrupt practice of using outside earnings for "unit needs." For a long time cadets at the school for young air specialists were detailed to perform such work. Some of the officers suppressed their conscience and cleverly and with complete impunity used their subordinates to build their private garages and to repair their apartments. Major General M. Tarakanov, deputy chief of the Political Directorate of the Kiev Military District, reported to the editors that the facts had been confirmed, that steps had been taken to correct the shortcomings and that the guilty parties had been severely punished. Among other things, he reported that Engineer-Lieutenant Colonel M. Shubnikov, head of the school, had been discharged from the Armed Forces.

Since the editors received alarming letters from the unit even after that, however, it appeared that the newspaper article had not gone far enough to help the entire effort of the honorable and principled element combating the negative developments there. With this in mind I visited the air base troop quarters.

My first meeting was with Shaposhnikov. He continued to insist that the people were getting even for the fact that he had spoken the truth to their face. Retaliation and persecution for criticism are especially intolerable in our society. A great deal of work went into the effort to uncover cases of this. There simply were none. The situation turned out to be entirely different, and there was justification for illuminating the letter from the engineer-senior-lieutenant, figuratively speaking, with the X-ray of his criticism of his colleagues.

The young officer was greeted with goodwill in the military collective, although many of the members were aware that he had achieved his transfer from the far-off Transbaykal to the southern Ukraine by hook or by crook. After looking over his references and his service record, Engineer-Major B. Batrak who had studied with Shaposhnikov's father, and other superiors of the engineer-senior lieutenant, understood that they were not especially fortunate to have him. Naturally, it was pleasant to read that the officer "had good professional training and was able to apply his theoretical knowledge in the performance of the engineering and technical tasks." They could not help being alarmed by such statements as the following, however, which were contained in document after document: "He is over-confident." "He is inclined to be arrogant and conceited. He is dishonest."

They still decided that what was passed was passed, however. They would let the individual prove himself.

Shaposhnikov was made commander of a platoon. Later, when the officer became tired of working with the men, he was met halfway and appointed as an instructor, taking into account the fact that he had expressed a desire to do graduate work. Shaposhnikov was successful in some ways. He managed to have his every success registered in the form of an official certificate. If he set up a display in the classroom, he would have it written that he had provided an innovation. If he came up with a sliding control panel for a slide projector, he would pass it off almost as an invention. He met the minimal candidate requirements. Was there any point in considering his penalties for violating regulations, his tactless behavior, if a chair at a military VUZ was in his future?

Shaposhnikov's letter stated: "I can see no objective reasons for holding up my promotion."

But let us hear what the young officer's colleagues have to say: "Shaposhnikov is one of those people who will stop at nothing to improve their position." "He does not like to wear a belt. Everytime there is a detail, he pretends to be sick." He could become a good engineer, if he were not always trying to obtain some kind of benefits for himself."

I am not mentioning a single name only because not one of the large number of people with whom I spoke, including those especially recommended by the engineer-senior lieutenant, had anything else to say. What could be more objective than that which has become public opinion?

The maximum for himself: the minimum for the service. This is the principle by which Shaposhnikov is now living. He is presently striving for the rank of captain and the position of engineer with the same persistence, deservng of better application, with which he strove for his transfer to the abundant southern region. He does not want to consider the fact that all of this goes to an individual not for serving a certain number of years, but only when serious regard for job and moral qualities are smoothly combined into one in the individual. After all, as stated at the June 1983 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, our party strives to see that the individual in our country

developes not simply as the bearer of a certain amount of knowledge, but primarily as a citizen of the socialist society, as an active builder of communism, with the ideological principles, morals and interests, the good work and conduct inherent in such a citizen.

I would not venture to say that Shaposhnikov is a well of engineering expertise. I have heard various comments, and I even visited a class in his specialty, which he conducted not without shortcomings. I am certain of one thing--that the engineer-senior lieutenant is not yet living for the common cause in all cases and that he is frequently not objective, dishonest, one might say, in his assessment of his colleagues. With no restraining of emotions, he described one of them as a scoundrel; another he called a careerist; and a third colleague he described as an orphan unlawfully passed over when it came to favor. An investigation showed that the "scoundrel" was in fact vacationing "on the bank of a beautiful reservoir," but certainly not as a result of the "large-scale detailing of personnel to work on a sovkhoz"; "careerist" did in fact have a party penalty on his record, but he had been transferred to an equivalent position and not to a higher one; the promotion of the "orphan" was held up for a certain time only because there were adequate grounds for doing so.

Idle talk, unchecked rumors and frivolous gossip were all put into play under the pretext of fighting for justice. Even the editor's response to the criticism got caught up in the merry-go-round of idle talk. Engineer-Lieutenant Colonel Popov, for example, had already "alerted" the newspaper twice: the school chief had been properly discharged, but they wrote that it was for mistakes. This was to someone's advantage, they said.

Yes, Engineer-Lieutenant Colonel(Reserve) Shubnikov had made mistakes. His main mistake was in placing too much trust in his deputy for training, Engineer-Lieutenant Colonel D. Nekrasov. Permitting the latter to engage in "seasonal work," he did not notice when Nekrasov began his deceptions, taking advantage of his service position for personal enrichment.

Shubnikov is remembered in a different way in the unit, however. It was through his efforts and hard work that once neglected buildings were turned into well-outfitted training buildings and solidly constructed sleeping quarters. How could they not thank him for this and for his almost 30 years of service, irreproachable in many ways? He paid in full for his mistakes. His retirement into the reserve was suggested not long before his next promotion. What was this, reward or punishment?

I believe that Engineer-Lieutenant Colonel Popov understands this very well. Why then did he have to pretend naivete? This was the advantageous thing to do, as it turns out. Advantageous to Popov personally. It had long been noticed that he was not coping with his duties as commander of the training battalion. He was brought to party accountability for failures in his work. At this point the decision was made to find him something easier. And so he "protects" his superiors from what he believes to be a rash act.

Engineer-Lieutenant Colonel D. Nekrasov, author of the third letter to the

editors, also played the hypocrite in holding up for display the critical view, suddenly grown more intense. The surprising thing is that Nekrasov conveniently held his tongue when a group of soldiers headed by Warrant Officer N. Kanivets were working day after day to build a garage for him. When he received his due for his self-seeking activities and for straying from our moral standards, he threw caution to the wind. Now it would be difficult to say what level of authority he turned to with his "complaint" about the fact that he had been punished too severely.

Engineer-Lieutenant Colonel Nekrasov's letter to the editors contained the following: "I don't know exactly whom to complain about." The answer is obvious: having awakened the still-drowsy sense of self-criticism, he can only complain about himself. Frankly speaking, no sort of false rumors can help to save a seriously damaged reputation.

Those in the training subunit drew the proper conclusion from the criticism published in the newspaper: One's work style is to a significant degree the style of one's relationships. A great deal has been done in the subunit to build relationships in the collective on a wholesome moral foundation. The unit communists had the decisive role. Apparently, however, not everyone likes the changes for the better. The vehicle of rumors and idle gossip has still not come to a halt. And that is too bad, because there has been no end of commissions visiting the air base troop quarters to check out letters from those at the wheel of this vehicle. Investigating and reinvestigating what was proven long ago, they are wasting state money, wasting their own time and taking people away from their jobs.

Misuse of Workers, Protection Described

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Jan 84 p 2

[Article by L. Patsyuk: "A Father-in-law Among the Senior Assistants"]

[Text] The above was the title of a feuilleton by Captain 1st Rank V. Vorob'yev and Captain 2d Rank A. Zlydnev, published in the 2 December 1983 issue of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA. It was about "Engineer-Captain 2d Rank G. Antonyan, who took advantage of his position for purposes of greed and grossly violated party, legal and moral standards. G. Antonyan was expelled from the CPSU on 30 September 1983 for violations of the housing laws, for other abuses of his service position, for suppressing criticism and neglecting party-indoctrinational work, and for degrading the party organization's role in its monitoring of the administration's performance. The severe punishment apparently did not have the proper effect upon him. This is borne out by letters from readers received by the editors after the feuilleton was published.

Dear Editors; I read the feuilleton "The Father-in-law Among the Senior Assistants" with enormous interest. I was disappointed that it omitted many

of the things taking place on the technical support vessel mentioned. What happened with me is an example. My labor contract was coming to an end when G. Antonyan called me in and asked me to write a complaint, which he would dictate, about G. Vitkovskaya. She had dared question the legality of his actions with respect to distributing housing. In the complaint I was to defame Vitkovskaya, and for this my apartment agreement was to be extended.

I have three children. The temptation to secure my job and housing was great, and I agreed, although I know nothing bad about Vitkovskaya. My wife talked me out of this shameful act. As a result I was discharged and my children were deprived of an apartment. For 6 months afterward Antonyan kept promising me those rewards if I would write the complaint about Vitkovskaya.

I would like to go back to the vessel, but I would not agree to do so under Antonyan. He continues to feel totally confident, counting on his numerous protectors. --V. Viznichak

As more time passes since the publishing of the feuilleton "The Father-in-law Among the Senior Assistants," the greater the fear of those who dared to disagree with Eng-Capt 2d Rank G. Antonyan. After a brief period of discomfiture he and those around him began writing letters and sending them to various levels of authority. All of us who had criticized him were grouped together as "trouble-makers." And while the letters were enroute, they were doing some settling-up with the "trouble-makers." Before the feuilleton was published G. Vitkovskaya had only been removed from the brigade council. She has now been removed from the brigade as well. Mother of three children, she was essentially left without work.

On 12 December of last year I myself was summoned to the party committee. Engineer-Captain 2d Rank Antonyan, his deputy for political affairs, the party committee secretary and our lawyer were present. They demanded that I make an oral or written complaint refuting the facts presented in the feuilleton. The same sort of pressure was applied to the other comrades. The following is an example: Antonyan's father-in-law, A. Sargsyan, turned up one evening with three bottles of vodka at the apartment of Chief Boatswain's Mate G. Zaretskiy. He said that Zaretskiy could save them by renouncing the statement that the workers had been used to build garages for them. Sargsyan felt that he had already "suffered": He had been relieved of his duties as senior assistant and appointed garage dispatcher (with a decent salary).

There has been no discussion of the feuilleton at all, dear editors, and none is expected. Captain 1st Rank E. Kachalkov, the political worker, continues to stand on the sideline of events, and Captain 1st Rank G. Pirveli, chief of the ship repair enterprise, supports G. Antonyan in every way. I have already been given a direct hint that at the first opportunity I will be released into the reserve. --Engineer-Captain 3d Rank V. Zernov

Respected Editors; I am G. V. Vitkovskaya and I wrote you asking for help in September of last year. I was therefore more surprised than anyone else when the article appeared in the newspaper. The article appeared, though, and I

should have been put at ease. I am writing once again, however. Many of the comrades who had the courage to complain about G. Antonyan continue to feel insecure in the collective. He was expelled from the party, but he and his "followers," who received apartments out of turn for "loyalty" (Belyankin, Glukhov, Shevchenko, Perkhali'skiy and others), are engaged in an active effort to prove that they are innocent. For their "failure to go along" workers N. Timofeyev and K. Kosinenko are threatened with a comradesly court, and Boatswain G. Zaretskiy is being urged to repudiate his statement, which has been mentioned in the newspaper. All of this is producing alarm in our collective, but we hope that justice will triumph. --G. Vitkovskaya

I read the feuilleton "The Father-in-law Among the Senior Assistants" in your newspaper. The article mentioned my name and my unfortunate fate on the technical support vessel headed by Officer G. Antonyan. I went to work there in 1980. I saw a young worker slandered and discharged at Antonyan's instruction, because he refused to defame an individual who did not suit the chief. I myself suffered for the same kind of thing. As a communist I am outraged by Antonyan's "defenders," who have acted the hypocrite for their own well-being. They received apartments ahead of the others, and they are now totally supporting Antonyan, who cannot tolerate criticism. Other people, however, who attempted to demonstrate principle "for the edification of others," paid dearly for this. Comrades Zolin, Marushkin, Serdyukov, Basenkova, Knizhnikova and many others suffered for their principles along with me. As a communist, however, I am hoping that order will triumph on the vessel. --L. Patsyuk

A month has gone by since the feuilleton was published, but the editors have still not received an official statement indicating that steps have been taken from the proper officials. And the letters from the readers indicate that steps must be taken. The editors hope that the Political Directorate of the Pacific Fleet will carefully investigate this ugly matter and report on the steps taken to correct it.

Disrepair of Naval Museum Criticized

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Jan 84 p 4

[Letter to editors: "Once More About the Roof"]

[Text] Not so long ago a group of veterans, including myself, decided to visit the fortress-city of Kronshtadt. We wanted to pay our respects to the fighting-men buried in the fraternal grave at Yakornaya Square and to visit the Kronshtadt Fortress museum--a branch of the Central Naval Museum.

I want to say right off that the museum workers greeted us with warmth and cheerfulness. Scientific Associate Irina Ivanovna gave a very interesting and exciting talk on the history of various relics. The further we went through the tall, circular museum building, however, the more difficult it became to make out the exhibits set up for viewing. Let us assume that many of us do not see extremely well, but why did the light suddenly dim in the museum? The associate explained that it was raining outside and this was why it had grown dark.

The fire-prevention officials forbid the light to be turned on during a rain, because the roof leaks. I glanced at the ceiling, and rivulets of water were indeed running down the wall. We splashed through puddles of water on the floor.

"Couldn't such a simple problem be corrected in our time?" we asked in amazement. The explanations we heard proved just the opposite, however. It was not a simple problem at all. A roofer would be needed to repair the roof, as well as sturdy materials--sheet copper would be preferable in this case. The local department of the Navy Engineer Service, however, responds to requests and requisitions from the museum administration (if it responds at all) by sending out a worker, who stops up the leaks with mastic. This sort of "cosmetic" repair is not the answer, however.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA previously raised this matter in an article by Ye. Boreyko of Kronshtadt: "You Cannot Cover a Roof With a Document...." Unfortunately, however, nothing has changed.

It is the usual thing to rely on camouflage at the museum. Once, some Navy leaders were expected at the museum. A group of repairmen from the Navy Engineer Service was ordered to hastily whitewash the ceiling and stop up the leaks. All night long scaffolding was carried from one room to another. Enormous "black holes" a square meter or more in size, and leaks were whitewashed two or three times. Lime and dust then had to be feverishly removed from the exhibits. A day later a downpour frivolously restored the original "scene," however.

How can the situation be corrected? It is clear even to a nonspecialist that the roof needs major repairs. Navy Engineer Service and Engineer-Colonel G. Puninskiy, chief of the local department, promise to plan and carry out the roof repairs this year. The people there have grown tired of believing such promises, however.

We have more than one example of good maintenance of such buildings. These include buildings in the charge of naval organizations. We need to give due credit to the training detachment commanded by Officer S. Melikhov, for example.

It is entirely a matter of careful and thrifty handling of that which surrounds us.

Violations of Travel Authorizations

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Jan 84 p 2

[Article: "Circumventing the Rules"]

[Text] A letter from T. Svatovskiy with commentary by Captain 2nd Rank P. Kuznetsov was published under the above title on 18 October 1983. It dealt with violations of the rules for distributing travel authorizations to a boarding facility, committed at one of the military enterprises.

N. Vodyanitskiy, secretary of the party committee at that enterprise, has reported to the editors that the newspaper's critical article was acknowledged as correct. The party committee has conducted an extra inspection of the records and checked on the correctness of the distribution of authorizations for sanatoria, boarding facilities and vacation centers. Steps have been taken to correct the deficiencies detected, and control has been stepped up. A party penalty in the form of a reprimand was issued to communist P. Bugay, chairman of the trade union committee, for discourtesy toward worker T. Svatovskiy and for violating the rules for distributing the authorizations.

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AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

ADVANTAGES OF NEW TRAINING SIMULATOR DISCUSSED

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 Nov 83 p 1

[Article by Engr-Maj A. Aleksenko, Red Banner Transcaucasus Military District:
"For Training Ground Controllers"]

[Text] During the tactical exercises, the aviators were tasked with striking the advancing "enemy" reserves. One of the groups launched was led by the air squadron's deputy commander for political affairs, Captain S. Zemenkov. The first-class military pilot skillfully used the relief of the ground, went around "enemy" air defense weapons at a low altitude and, suddenly appearing over the target, executed the bombing.

On the return flight, the group was attacked by superior "enemy" forces. A very complicated situation was developing in the air. Precise control from the command post helped the airmen commanded by Captain Zemenkov come out of the fighting without any "losses".

The success of any flight, be it conducted by an experienced pilot or a beginner, depends largely on expert guidance from the ground. The role of the flight direction group officials increases considerably when a complicated situation develops in the air. How to teach ground controllers and duty shift specialists of the command post to act positively and with confidence in such a situation? A creative group, headed by our district's Air Forces chief of staff, Major General of Aviation V. Gorbatykh, suggested a simulator of original design for training ground controllers and command post duty shifts.

The electronic teaching device makes it possible to work out problems on directing interceptors to airborne targets and on controlling tactical and transport traffic in the airspace of the flight areas. With the aid of video tape recorders, any air situation is reproduced on the display screens and critical, unusual situations can be created. A separate display shows weather information for the flight areas.

This simulator complex is a good aid to commanders in aircrew and ground controller group training. With its help, special events possible in a real situation are introduced and then the decisions made by the ground controllers are checked for correctness. This develops their speed of thinking,

decisiveness, initiative and psychological stability--qualities necessary for officers of tactical control elements. In the method developed by the innovators, a type of instruction was introduced whereby the officers train not only in their own position but alternately learn the duties of each team member. The interchangeability broadens the trainees' professional competence and the classes themselves become more interesting. As a rule, they are conducted with a heavy load and a mandatory subsequent review of each program version. The complex can create a substantial number of such basic models. The simulator complex provides high quality instruction, is reliable in operation and is low in energy consumption. However, the creative group is not stopping at what has been accomplished; it is working on creating a new model. The modified simulator has more operator positions and automatic input of airborne target flight data. A special unit, if the instructor desires, can mix the simulator's signals with real air situation data. The upgrade will make the system even more effective for training tactical control officers in the new training year.

The aviators' tactical training classroom has also been modified for the new training year. It is called an automated instruction auditorium. Here, all of the technical devices are controlled from the instructor's console. Movie cameras, slide projectors and tape recorders are used to create air situations and to work out course and tactical problems. A television information-inquiry system helps to test, broaden and deepen the trainees' knowledge. Major V. Kulikov, Colonel (Res) P. Kurdyumov and other technically creative enthusiasts had an active part in equipping this classroom.

The need to develop and introduce modern simulator complexes into instruction practice is dictated by the complexity of the tasks accomplished by aviators. Besides that, the highly effective simulators help to increase flight safety.

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SPECIAL TROOPS

INTERVIEW WITH CHIEF OF REAR SERVICES, MARSHAL OF THE SOVIET UNION KURKOTKIN

Moscow VOYENNNYYE ZNANIYA in Russian No 12, Dec 83 (signed to press 10 Nov 83)
pp 1-2

[Interview with Marshal of the Soviet Union S. K. Kurkotkin, USSR deputy minister of defense and chief of rear services of the USSR Armed Forces; date, place and interviewer not given: "The Rear—Forge of Victory"]

[Text] Marshal of the Soviet Union Semen Konstantinovich Kurkotkin, Hero of the Soviet Union, was born in the village of Zaprudnya (Ramenskiy Rayon, Moscow Oblast). He was graduated from the armor school at Orlov and the military political school. During the Great Patriotic War he commanded tank subunits [podrazdeleniye] and units [chast'] and a tank brigade. After the war he completed work at the Military Academy of Armored and Mechanized Troops and the USSR Armed Forces General Staff Academy, commanded formations [soyedineniye] and a large unit [ob'yedineniye] and served as military district commander and commander of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany.

Since 1972 S. K. Kurkotkin has served as USSR deputy minister of defense and chief of rear services of the USSR Armed Forces.

[Question] Comrade Marshal of the Soviet Union, I would like here at the beginning of our conversation to define as precisely as we can just what it is that we mean when we speak of the 'rear' of the Armed Forces.

[Answer] The 'rear' of the Armed Forces, this is the connecting link between the Soviet Armed Forces and the country's economy. And the stronger the latter, the greater the rear's ability to provide our troops with everything they need to perform at peak efficiency. Put more simply, the rear is responsible for providing the troops with fuel, ammunition, food, clothing, footwear, health care, provisions, housing, utilities and financial support. The rear services system comprises motor transport, rail and road-repair and traffic-control troops, an auxiliary support fleet, pipeline, engineer, airfield services, technical air support and other units, institutions and subunits, bases and materiel depots. The rear services may also have engineer and chemical units and subunits and communication, air defense and security troops.

[Question] Please tell us something, now, about the original formation of the Rear Services of the USSR Armed Forces.

[Answer] I think it should be entirely clear from what I've just said that the Rear Services constitute an integral component of the Armed Forces, so the formation of the Rear Services will inevitably constitute an integral component of the history of the USSR Armed Forces.

The objective of defending the socialist fatherland required the formation within the Workers and Peasants' Red Army of organizational rear services units, which was done in 1918. The Rear Services of the armed forces were then continuously upgraded. Special-purpose units and subunits were formed within the Rear Services system. They continuously increased their mobility and capabilities and were able to do this by making increasingly extensive use of motorized transport and because the Soviet Union was continuously increasing its economic and military defensive strength.

But then the very earliest days of the Great Patriotic War required new approaches to the provision of support for the Armed Forces. Independent rear administrative organs were reorganized and the entire system by which we supplied our formations, armies and fronts was improved. The Rear Services emerged as something qualitatively new during those difficult years. This period saw them enhance their ability to deliver materiel in a timely manner substantially and the forces in the field develop a new independence with respect to their rear services, a new ability to maneuver men and equipment as dictated by changing battlefield situations.

[Question] I'd like to get a better idea, Comrade Marshal of the Soviet Union, of the scales of Rear Services operations during the Great Patriotic War.

[Answer] Well, you ought to be able to judge by some of these statistics, for example. Operation Bagration in the summer of 1944 alone saw our forces expend some 400,000 tons of ammunition (roughly 700 trains worth), 300,000 tons of fuels and lubricants and as much as 500,000 tons of food and fodder. All this was delivered to the forward edge of our rear services subunits. The four years of the Great Patriotic War saw us expend over 10 million tons of ammunition, more than 16 million tons of fuel and some 40 million tons of food and fodder; we built or restored roughly 100,000 kilometers of roads and equipped more than 6,000 temporary airfields to meet the needs of our aviation. Medical personnel returned 72 per cent of our wounded and 91 per cent of the sick to action. These were some of the scales of Rear Services operations.

Our Rear Services also provided support for the Polish, Czechoslovak and other foreign military organizations formed on Soviet territory and which battled shoulder to shoulder with the Armed Forces of the USSR against the common enemy; they then rendered material assistance to the liberated peoples of Europe. In accordance with a decision of the Soviet Government, for example, our forces allocated more than 90,000 tons of provisions from their own reserves for the use of foreign governments.

An order of the USSR Ministry of the Armed Forces of August 25, 1946 declared that "During the Great Patriotic War the men of our Rear Services organizations—quartermasters, medical personnel, drivers, road builders, communications troops, fuel supply organizations, veterinarians—were found to be equal to the front-supply tasks assigned them.

"The troops of our Rear Services organizations discharged their duties to the motherland with honor."

Tens of thousands of Rear Services troops were awarded orders and medals, 52 were honored as Heroes of the Soviet Union, while over 30 were designated Heroes of Socialist Labor.

[Question] The postwar years have seen continuous improvement in the Rear Services. It would be interesting to learn what would now be said to characterize the present-day phase of their development.

[Answer] The Rear Services have become much more mobile, more maneuverable; put figuratively, their services, their units and subunits, have all been put on wheels.

What our forces consume and, accordingly, the volumes which have to be moved to supply them with everything they need, are now much greater in comparison with the period of the Great Patriotic War. On the other hand, the successes we have achieved in the development of our socialist economy have made it possible in turn to provide the Rear Services with the most modern means of moving cargoes—rail networks capable of moving heavy loads, a variety of types of ocean- and river-going ships, military transport airplanes and helicopters and powerful, heavy-duty trucks. These means of transportation are employed in an integrated manner to accomplish our overall mission.

To insure uninterrupted movement of supplies with an enemy intensively employing a variety of weapons against our lines of support requires rich arsenal of weapons and equipment enabling us build and restore roads and access lines quickly. And these means we have as well.

But the highly dynamic nature of modern-day warfare provides only intermittent lulls in the action, during which fighting forces can be resupplied with ammunition, fuel, food.... So today's Rear Services organizations are faced with the task of supplying the fighting troops with everything they need on the move or during only brief halts. Playing a particularly important role in this connection we see the mechanization of loading and unloading operations, the use of packages, containers and unitized cargoes and the extensive employment of interchangeable trailers of the same type.

Timely refuelling operations either directly on the march or on the battlefield pose particular difficulties. An operation like this requires good teamwork on the part of both fuel truck drivers and the crews of the fighting vehicles involved. Field refuelling points help solve this problem as well. Great professional skill is required to organize operations to refuel ships at sea or aircraft in the air.

The capabilities of all this new equipment have wrought profound changes in the traditional functions performed by the Rear Services. We're now even baking our bread and preparing our food on the move, for example, and our kitchens don't lag behind the advancing troops. We have mobile bakeries, truck-mounted field kitchens, towed kitchens, refrigerator trucks and so on.

A search and detection system we now have together with front line transport vehicles in which we can administer first aid will help expedite the evacuation of wounded from the battlefield.

We have also seen striking changes occurring in the equipment available to Rear Services administrative organizations. Upgraded communications systems and other electronic equipment, from comparatively simple calculators to powerful electronic computers, are making it possible for us to model various processes involved in Rear Services troop-support operations and then to arrive at the best possible decisions on the basis of the data we obtain.

[Question] What difference has all this made in the nature of the work our Rear Services troops have to do?

[Answer] Well, I would call your attention first of all to the continuous increase in the number of technical specialties within our Rear Services units, subunits and logistical installations. It would be enough to point out that the proportion of technical and engineering personnel we now have is several times greater than it was in 1945.

Another characteristic of the current state of development is the fact that, as a rule, the equipment we use has to be operated by a number of people rather than by individuals. So it is only natural now to see a higher premium placed on teamwork among our troops, efficiency, mutual assistance and the ability of each individual to perform tasks other than his own, and these are all things that come only with good combat training and the strictest of discipline. In the exercises we conduct using equipment under field conditions and in developing the skills and instincts required for effective cooperation with combat units and subunits, we are always striving toward our single most important objective—to insure that our Rear Services organizations are able at any moment to provide the Armed Forces with everything they need to accomplish any mission they are assigned.

[Question] How have the Rear Services organized the program of training they provide their specialists?

[Answer] We train our officers at the Ulyanovsk Higher Military Technical School imeni Bogdan Khmel'nitsyiy, the Leningrad Order of Lenin, Order of the Red Banner Higher School of Railroad Troops and Motor Transportation imeni M. V. Frunze, the Vol'sk Order of the Red Star Higher Military Rear Services School imeni Lenin Komsomol, the Gor'kiy Higher Military School of Rear Services, the Moscow Higher Command School of Road and Engineering Troops and other military educational facilities. They provide their graduates with an advanced, specialized military education and qualification as engineers specializing in mechanics, a variety of technical areas, economics etc. We also have our Order of Lenin Military Academy of Rear Services and Transportation and the Order of Lenin, Order of the Red Banner Military Medical Academy imeni S. M. Kirov.

But now our junior rear services specialists, our wheeled and tracked vehicle drivers, the specialists of our railroad, road-building and pipeline units, our fuels and lubricants specialists, depot personnel, cooks, bakers, tailors and health instructors—our Armed Forces need these people just as much as they need, for example, their pilots, tankers and artillerymen. They undergo a lot of highly specialized training, of course, in our training subunits and then on the job, but one thing they all get in common is a rigorous, objective-oriented emphasis upon the personal responsibility they bear for the job they do in discharging their military duties and instruction designed to develop them into ideologically mature, steadfast individuals with a communist attitude toward work to be done.

Our practical experience shows that the youngsters who have participated in the activities of the DOSAAF schools, clubs and sections and have gone through their course in basic military training will be the quickest to win the "excellent" rating in combat and political training.

I would like to say in conclusion that we are aware each and every day of the attention we are given by the Communist Party and of the guiding role it plays in the overall life and work of the Rear Services as an organization. Our Rear Services troops repay this attention with selfless devotion to the discharge of their military responsibilities and consistent efforts to improve their mastery of military skills.

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SPECIAL TROOPS

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CIVIL DEFENSE

LIEUTENANT GENERAL D. I. MIKHAYLIK ON NEW CIVIL DEFENSE TRAINING YEAR

Moscow VOYENNNYYE ZNANIYA in Russian No 12, Dec 83 (signed to press 10 Nov 83)
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[Article by Lieutenant General D. Mikhaylik, deputy chief of USSR Civil Defense for Combat Training: "The Training Year Has Begun"]

[Text] The basic component of the civil defense training the Soviet people undergo has been and remains a program designed to help them develop a set of solid skills and a fund of reliable knowledge which will enable them to take proper action to protect themselves, their relatives and friends and their workplace, section and facility as a whole from the effects of weapons of mass destruction. This kind of training makes you a conscious component of our civil defense, an individual capable independently of evaluating a situation, making the proper decisions and then taking skillful, effective action under the particular conditions involved. It is this that our CD chiefs, staff personnel and course instructors see as their primary objective in developing their training plans for the coming year.

When you analyze what we have accomplished you can see that with the training they received during 1983 our nonmilitarized formations, workers, employees, collective farmers and other group within the population have made considerable progress in efforts to insure readiness to discharge civil defense responsibilities and that they are now more personally responsible for timely, good-quality performance of scheduled training assignments and carrying out other civil defense tasks.

We could cite a multitude of examples of exceptionally conscientious, creative approaches to the organization of training programs for our people and active participation on the part of workers, employees, collective farmers and students in organizing civil defense activities at their own facilities.

Take, for example, the Omsk synthetic rubber works, the Khar'kov electrical equipment plant, the Oktyabr'skiy molot Repair Plant in Chernigov, Remstroydormash and the furniture combine in Vinnitsa and Pamyat' Chapayeva Sovkhoz in Omskiy Rayon, Omsk Oblast. These operations are located in different parts of the country and engaged in different types of economic activity. What these collectives have in common, though, is the effort they are making to prepare themselves to take proper action in extraordinary circumstances. This accounts for the high state of civil defense training of the supervisory personnel themselves, the continuous concern

shown for the acquisition and maintenance in proper working order of both individual and group protective gear and the effort made to insure that nonmilitarized formations are provided with the equipment and instruments they need. These facilities have also created and are effectively utilizing a variety of training materials and equipment, which they are continuously upgrading and updating. All this accumulated experience should be given the widest possible publicity.

In a number of instances, however, we are still encountering substantial deficiencies. Instruction is frequently given in the most perfunctory manner and is failing to stir any truly keen interest on the part of the trainees. Senior officials in the housing and municipal services sector are frequently failing to take the steps required to insure that proper instruction is provided for both our working and nonworking citizens. Not everyone is familiar with the instructional brochure "Eto dolzhen znat' i umet' kazhdyy" [Everyone Should Know and Be Able To Do This].

Some nonmilitarized formation commanders are being found to have substantial gaps in their methods training, which, of course, has a negative impact upon the quality of the specialized tactical training and exercises they hold. Or take a look at this situation: Ya. Kholyava, commander of a combined detachment composed of personnel of GPZ-18 and other facilities (in Tul'chin, Vinnitsa Oblast) has not once over the past three years personally directed any activities his formation has held at full strength. He consequently has only the most superficial idea of the state of the training of his subordinate subunits and of the degree of their readiness. We could say the same thing about the commanders of the rescue group at the carpet and cloth combine in Kirovabad and the combined group on Ordzhonikidze Sovkhoz, Kusarskiy Rayon in the Azerbaijan SSR.

It has been shown that in a number of instances the people have not been adequately trained in the proper action to take when they hear CD warning signals; they are not properly acquainted with the rules governing the occupation of shelters and how people are supposed to conduct themselves inside a shelter and they have not developed the skills required to make proper use of individual protective gear, to help themselves in certain situations and to provide assistance to others, to adapt basements and other underground structures for use as fallout shelters or to construct even the simplest of field shelters.

All this imposes upon our civil defense chiefs at all levels, our CD staffs and the people who run our CD courses the obligation to learn the lessons to be learned here and draw the appropriate conclusions so as not to permit any repetition of these mistakes.

The new training year must see us have done with this formalistic approach to civil defense training, this mechanical presentation, divorced from reality, of general civil defense situations. Our senior command and supervisory personnel, our nonmilitarized formations and other groups within the population must teach what specific actions to take taking account of actual conditions prevailing where they live and work. All means and methods of training must be employed to insure that each and every citizen develops a deeper understanding of his place and role in the accomplishment of specific civil defense tasks and that he is able to apply in actual practice the knowledge and skills he has acquired and the methods he has mastered. What we are talking about, in a word, is the need to insure that we establish an organic link between our civil defense instruction and all activities of our work organizations as a whole and of our citizens

as individuals. This to a great degree is going to determine the readiness of the Soviet people to take action under extraordinary conditions.

In organizing their training programs, our CD staff and course personnel must focus their attention primarily upon the training to be given senior, command and supervisory personnel, what with the fact that these are the people who constitute the key components of our programs, upon whom to a decisive degree depends the implementation of our civil defense training plans. The instruction and exercises we conduct must be directed toward the objectives of insuring thorough mastery of functional civil defense responsibilities and the development of an ability to direct the implementation of civil defense measures under adverse conditions, timely identification of suitable shelter facilities and the effective utilization of these facilities in the interests of production operations and the development of an ability to plan and organize effective training for lower-level collectives and nonmilitarized formations and then to direct the individuals involved in conducting rescue and emergency restoration operations and in dealing with the aftermaths of natural disasters, accidents and other emergencies. All this is going to require our staff personnel to adopt a new approach to the organization of methods training programs conducted in the production facilities themselves as well as to the instruction to be provided in our CD courses. Serious efforts must also be made in this direction because managerial and specialized personnel are to begin their new training program December 1, 1983.

The task of improving the training of our nonmilitarized formations, of course, is of no less importance. Individual facility CD chiefs and staff personnel need to give more attention to the preparations they make for specialized tactical training exercises, to make sure these exercises receive the support they require in the way of facilities and equipment and insure that each individual trainee and each commander is required to exert himself to the maximum physically, morally and psychologically and that the formation as a whole coheres effectively into a unified collective capable of functioning in a harmonious, well-coordinated manner and of achieving the desired end results.

We can't create truly realistic situations in peacetime, of course, but that really isn't necessary anyway. The leader's responsibilities lie in a somewhat different direction—to give the most careful consideration to his plans for a training program and then insure that this program is supported by the material and equipment necessary to give each participant something to do, and something to do for the entire training period to boot. This is the only way to get the results we want. Tactical and specialized formation training and exercises should be held under the personal direction of CD chiefs and staff personnel.

All formation training and exercise activities should include work on methods and procedures to be employed in emergency rescue and restoration operations not only in the vicinity of centers of destruction and natural disasters, but also in connection with efforts to deal with the aftermath of a variety of accidents, particularly on rivers, at sea and along railroads. This is a new and very important direction in the training we are giving our CD formations and should be approached with the utmost seriousness.

We should also use 1984 to improve training programs for our workers, employees and collective farmers—our country's primary productive forces. It is important in this connection that we not allow a single minute of training time to go to

waste. Instruction should deal with the subject matter of the second year and reinforce and improve the knowledge and practical skills of trainees, particularly those required for proper use of both individual and collective protective gear, to provide adequate protection for the individual himself, his friends and relatives, his work place and his shop and to prevent contamination of food, raw foodstuffs and water supplies. Citizens, particularly those living in rural areas, should be taught how to seal their homes and livestock barns, adapt cellars and other underground facilities for use as fallout shelters, construct the simplest types of field shelters (slit shelters, covered-trench shelters, foxhole-type shelters) and to insure rigorous adherence to rules established to provide protection against radiation.

Systematic instruction should be provided both at production facilities and at places of residence with the objective of giving people better training in the proper actions to take when they hear civil defense warning signals.

Facility CD chiefs bear responsibility for insuring that all training instructors are well-prepared ahead of time to conduct required CD training and that all materials and equipment, both those belonging to the facility itself and those which are the property of the CD course facilities, are properly and fully utilized as well as for working with CD instructors to give them the instructional methods training they need in the basic areas of instruction to be covered.

Our experience over the past few years indicates that the instruction provided students in institutions of higher learning, specialized secondary, schools, vocational training schools and general-education schools has not, on the whole, all that badly organized. Civil defense authorities should nevertheless keep a little closer eye on the training being given our students and take steps to improve the quality of instruction, particularly in those areas of the program directly related to their specialties.

During the coming training year our staff and course personnel, as well as all senior civil defense officials, should also make a substantial effort to achieve real improvement in the various types of group training they provide, activities such as combined training conducted at individual production facilities and facility drills. These activities have always been and remain the ideal mode of training for instructional personnel, nonmilitarized formations and facilities as a whole. Our task here, then, consists in working to improve the organizational-methodological level of the training and exercises we hold, to better the results we get from these activities and to create conditions which are adequately challenging for all participants and provide activity schedules extensive enough to last for two to three days.

We will usually hold our combined exercises at major industrial production facilities, facilities producing or using flammable, dangerously explosive or highly toxic substances in their production operations, on kolkhozes and sovkhozes and at major medical facilities. It will accordingly be very important to take account of all such facilities within a given rayon, city, oblast or republic (ministry, state committee, department), compile and get approval for the schedules in accordance with which these activities are to be conducted, insure that these activities are closely supervised and at the same time to provide any assistance required to lower-level, subordinate facilities involved.

As far, now, as individual facility drills are concerned, these will be scheduled for facilities in all other categories, to include the schools. These drills will include activities scheduled in accordance with the particular facility CD plan. General-education and vocational-technical schools should schedule these drills for their civil defense days.

Our CD courses should consider their primary tasks to consist in insuring a well-organized transition in their course instruction to the new, 1983, program, intensifying their organizational and instructional-methods training and in upgrading training materials, facilities and equipment with the objective of improving the training they can give supervisory, command and other senior personnel as well as industrial specialists in training. It is important that each trainee thoroughly study and develop a solid knowledge of the requirements and objectives of all standards documentation and then consistently implement these programs at the facility where he works. All course activities should be organized on a consistent, continuing basis so that they become instructional methods training centers for the particular administrative jurisdiction involved, especially for individual rayons and cities.

In developing their CD training plans, our CD chiefs and staff and course personnel should also be working to improve their civil defense propaganda efforts. These efforts should be undertaken in the light of requirements imposed by the 26th CPSU Congress and the June (1983) plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and coordinated closely with the organizational and political activities conducted by facility and CD staff and course party organizations. In planning and conducting our discussions, giving our lectures and putting on other activities we should be giving more careful consideration to the general educational level of the group of trainees involved and making sure our propaganda is effective, specific and rigorously scientific and that it in fact reaches the heart and mind of each worker, employee, collective farmer and nonmilitarized CD formation member.

So, as we can see, the tasks before us in the new training year are both challenging and vitally important. In order to be able to accomplish all these things we are going to have to put forth a lot of effort and energy, insure that we function at our most efficient and provide for effective supervision of training activities at all levels of civil defense organization.

Effective direction of our CD training programs requires thoroughgoing analysis of the quality of the training and exercises we conduct and then of how effective these activities are, identification of the most valuable forms and methods of conducting these programs on the basis of experience we gain and then the generalization and dissemination of information concerning them and, finally, the exercise of greater initiative and imagination in conducting the practical training activities we schedule. This is how we can insure continued improvement of our civil defense training system.

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MILITARY EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

INSTITUTE MILITARY INSTRUCTOR TRAINING PROGRAM DISCUSSED

Moscow VOYENNNYYE ZNANIYA in Russian No 12, Dec 83 (signed to press 10 Nov 83) pp 26-27

[Article by special VOYENNNYYE ZNANIYA correspondent A. Utkin: "Institute Trains Military Instructors, New Division of Lipetsk Pedagogical Institute, Students, Military Affairs Department, Urgent Problems"]

[Text] A few years ago a number of our pedagogical VUZ's established new physical education and basic military training divisions. In 1983 we have already seen the first crop of new specialists graduate from these programs and take up positions in our schools and vocational-technical training institutions, but the number of questions the editors are getting in their mail concerning how and what these students who have chosen the career of military instructor should be taught is not getting any smaller.

During their four years at the VUZ the students in these programs study, in addition to their "purely professional" subjects, such other subjects essential to the instructor as the history of the CPSU, political economy, Marxist-Leninist philosophy and scientific communism. They must also master their pedagogy and psychology. They will also study (they are, after all, physical education instructors, too!) anatomy, physiology and the principles of sports medicine and biomechanics.

The "professional" disciplines here would include track and field, skiing, gymnastics and swimming. The physical education instructor, of course, must not only be competent in these sports himself, he must also be able to teach the basic elements of these activities to his students. So the future military instructor will also undertake a thorough study of the theory, practice and methods employed in teaching these different sports. He will learn (without any quotation marks, now) to play football, hockey, volleyball and basketball, because in only a few years, at whatever school or vocational-technical training institution he happens to be teaching, he will bear the responsibility for organizing teams of youngsters and then refereeing their fierce contests on the fields of ice and grass and the athletic grounds.

The future military instructor's most important responsibilities, however, will be the basic military and military-patriotic education programs the VUZ run for their students. The military affairs department is charged with developing the skills and providing the knowledge for this.

But now let's talk a little about what we learned at the pedagogical institute in Lipetsk.

If such a comparison might be permitted, all students in the physical education and basic military training division could be referred to as both students and cadets. Once a week they put on a military uniform and attend to their studies in the military affairs department. Everything's run just like it is in the army there to include the unit detail: there is a duty officer, an assistant duty officer and three orderlies. There's a formation before each lecture at which the group reports its readiness for duty, and then upon command the students enter the auditorium and take their seats.

So in a word, this part of the program is run just as it would be in a military school.

There is also some similarity to be seen in the nature of the curriculum: these future reserve lieutenants (this is the rank they will be awarded upon completion of their work at the institute) will be studying the history of Soviet military art, tactics and military topography, weapons and military equipment etc. When they complete their studies at the institute the graduates will know how motorized rifle subunits operate under various terrain conditions and how to establish control and organize cooperation on the battlefield and be familiar with the organization and establishment of units and subunits of the Soviet Armed Forces. Another substantial part of the program of training our future reserve officers go through is devoted to study of regulations and dismounted drill training.

Students get their most important training in the field, though. It is here that they master the responsibilities of both soldier and commander on the battlefield, they themselves learn to lead subunits both on the defense and in the attack, become good marksmen in the process of learning to operate all the different types of weapons our modern-day motorized rifle organizations use and learn how to operate military vehicles.

All this, however, is still by no means accounting for the entire course of training given by the military affairs department. The most important component of the curriculum, the foundation, the very core of the program is the training given in the methodology to be employed in conducting basic military training and providing military-patriotic education. The role and responsibilities of the military instructor in an educational institution, organizing a program of basic military training and planning lessons, the training materials and the facilities and equipment required for a basic military training program, procuring, keeping records on and storing weapons, the methodology employed in conducting basic military training, how a military instructor prepares for his lesson presentations and the sequence of preparation, the organization and methods involved in giving instruction in the various subjects and divisions of a course of basic military training—all this together still constitutes only a small part of the foundation the institute lays for the future military instructor to base his own personal mastery of pedagogical skills upon.

"The need for military instructors is a great one," says Yu. Grechishnikov, secretary of the LGPI [Lipetsk State Pedagogical Institute]. "Many schools, particularly rural schools, are awaiting the division's first crop of graduates next year with

great anticipation. For the fact is that the military instructor really does occupy a unique position in any educational institution, particularly in one where most of the instructors are women. Who if not he is going to be responsible for organizing what are considered to be 'purely male' activities—hikes, games, competitions, DOSAAF group instruction and the like? Not only that, there aren't now all that many military instructors in our rural schools who are reserve officers with specialized higher education.

"And the new division has really made its contribution here at the institute. How? By attracting people here to study who have had real military experience or practical experience in industry or agriculture. These are serious-minded, responsible people; you can give them something to do and they'll pay attention, do what you tell them and then report back when they're done, just like they do it in the army. The administration and the party organization can always rest at ease when the future military instructors go into town on duty wearing the armbands of the people's militia, when they go out to the various rayons as members of agitation brigades or when they are put in charge of construction brigades.

"And then there's something else: with their bearing and appearance and discipline they exercise a positive influence upon students in other departments. We have gotten good results, for example, from our practice of assigning future military instructors to dormitory rooms where we have our first-year students, among whom you'll find quite a few, unfortunately, who in all seriousness can't even make a bed or iron a pair of pants. So our former soldiers take these people under their wing, so to speak and help them."

The party committee secretary and then the dean of the physical education and basic military training faculty, S. Shmakov, both gave particular emphasis in our conversation to the following detail: there are no failures among the students enrolled in the division. They are all exceptionally industrious and conscientious. Among the top students they mentioned Aleksandr Titov and Aleksandr Kuleshov. Both of them are from rayon centers within Lipetsk Oblast: Titov from Dobrinka, Kuleshov from Lebedyan'. The first is a reserve PFC who served his active duty with the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany as a communications specialist, the second a reserve senior sergeant who served with the border troops. Both enrolled in LGPI by way of their rayon military commissariats; their first studies here were in the preparatory division; they completed that successfully and then enrolled in the first course. Kuleshov gets only "good" and "excellent" marks, while Titov has only one "4." They'll be graduating and taking their first jobs in another six months. The curious thing is that when they were in school they would get nothing but "average" grades. They think the institute is more interesting, but of course it's more difficult as well; the thing is, they like the careers they have chosen very much, and this accounts for the success they have had in their studies. Incidentally, not a single one of their classmates was ever dropped from the course because of poor grades; they are all pleased with the direction they have taken.

No small role in this success has been played by meetings scheduled with experienced military instructors, A. D'yakov (Secondary School No. 12 in Lipetsk), for example, or I. Griбанov (Secondary School No. 2) or A. Pishikin (State Vocational-Technical School No. 6). Many students get practical experience under the supervision of these experienced instructors, attend sessions of instruction they give, familiarize themselves with the training materials, equipment and facilities

they use and listen to them discuss characteristic aspects of the instruction given in a program of basic military training and military-patriotic education. So it came as no coincidence that during some practical exercises at the institute (in which one of the students conducted a session of a basic military training program while the rest of the students played the role of the "trainees") the instructor's experienced eye could not help but notice how capably these students were employing the methods suggested to them by their older instructor friends.

The department of military affairs is the most important one in the division. It is above all this department that determines the level of professional training our future military instructors receive. It is headed by Colonel V. Volodin, an instructional methods specialist with many years of service in the Armed Forces and extensive experience in VUZ work (before coming to the department here he was head of the training section of the military affairs department at the Kursk Agricultural Institute). His right-hand man here is Colonel V. Shurov, head of the training section. He is a graduate of the Military Academy of Chemical Defense and the VTsOK GO SSSR [expansion unknown]; that's why the programs under his direction deal so extensively with such a complex subject as protection against weapons of mass destruction. Major A. Mezhonov and Captain V. Golenya also have considerable experience of service in the armed forces generally and as instructors in particular.

Things haven't been, and in fact still aren't, easy for the head of the department and his staff. They started out with literally nothing. They're just now putting the facilities into operation where the armored personnel carriers are going to be, for example, and opening up special-purpose classrooms for technical training. There's still not enough room inside the department offices themselves. There's no room yet available to use to set up a proper military study center.

But things are moving along, mainly due to the initiative, persistence and good planning of the officers of the military affairs department. Their concerns and the problems they have to deal with have been a source of concern as well for the institute's administration and party organization, and they're now getting help from the public and vocational-technical education authorities, military commissariats and DOSAAF committees. And the result?—progress. In the course of just 4 years the VUZ has been able to equip a number of special lecture rooms, a tactical training field and a weapons storage room and to accumulate a solid collection of training and methods literature. But I will say again, there are indeed a great many unsolved problems yet to deal with in connection with the effort to create the required base of support in the way of materials, equipment and facilities; the main thing, though, is that there is solid confidence that all these problems will in fact be solved just as in the recent past other, no less difficult problems found solution.

There is one other point that should be made here. LGPI opened up its new division in 1979, so it's been in existence for 4 years now—not a very long time. But problems have arisen which really do require solution immediately. One of them is students. So far, the division has been getting as many students as it has places for. There's no competition. The military commissariats and public and vocational-technical education authorities are not sending the institute enough candidates for enrollment or doing enough to advertise the new specialization among troops being transferred from active duty to the reserves. LGPI itself is

sending agitation brigades out to cities and rayons around the oblast to tell young people about the institute and the specializations it offers, but this isn't enough. With the exception of just a few people, all the future military instructors here are from Lipetsk Oblast. This is clear evidence that the division is just not well enough known in other oblasts, krays and republics.

Our readers know very well how many young communists our Armed Forces educate. But there is only the sparsest of party representation among former members of the armed forces studying in the physical education and basic military division here—one or two people in each course. So in selecting young people to send to the institute, the military commissariats should be giving preference to members and candidate members of the CPSU.

Our attention is drawn to the following fact as well. The military instructor is not simply a basic military training instructor; he is also supposed to conduct training and lead DOSAAF organization activities—this is one of his direct responsibilities. But the problem is that the students are being given virtually no instruction in the technical and other sports activities with direct military application.

And then there's one other problem. It was touched upon in the article entitled "Dva voyenruka" [Two Military Instructors] (VOYENNNYYE ZNANIYA, No 8, 1982). The discussion here centered around the problem of correspondence instruction for military instructors. In our rural areas and in many workers' settlements (particularly in Siberia and the Far East) there are in fact many military instructors, reserve privates and sergeants, who have no higher education. They have of necessity to enroll in departments which have not the least thing to do with basic military training; out there there are only the correspondence divisions. To study in a pedagogical institute that trains military instructors in residence is sometimes simply not possible for personal reasons (most frequently because of family considerations).

It is clear that the USSR Ministry of Education and other interested departments need to be working out solutions to this and other problems.

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AFGHANISTAN

OUTSTANDING DRA ARMED FORCES REGIMENT PROFILED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Dec 83 p 3

[Article by Lt Col V. Skrizhalin, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent: "The Front-runners: Correspondence from the Foremost DRA Armed Force Regiment"]

[Text] The head of the column had already come in contact with the first Duvals and was about to be drawn into their labyrinth, when suddenly shots were fired. An ambush! The fire was so heavy that the battalion hit the ground. Anticipating an easy victory, the Dushmans triumphantly shouted in the megaphone:

--Children of Lenin, surrender!

In response there were bursts of machine gun and automatic weapons fire and a few minutes later, totally unexpected for the bandits, artillery salvos.

--The children of Lenin do not surrender!

This took place not long ago on the outskirts of the Kishlak Jangalark. It was told to me by the artillery regiment's chief of staff, Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Sharif. In that battle, he was in the second battalion of the regiment that was following the infantrymen.

Later I found out that it was Sharif who, together with the battalion commander, Captain Abdul Karim, and the battalion party organization secretary, Senior Lieutenant Nasyr Ahmad, deployed the battalion in the complicated situation and opened fire at the necessary moment.

Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Sharif now talks about the event calmly, almost smiling:

--To tell the truth, we did not expect such a complimentary appraisal of ourselves from the Dushmans...Children of Lenin...The enemy never guessed that the words they were yelling at us, as the most insulting, in their opinion, foul language, would have such an influence on us. Now, really, if the enemy called me a son of Lenin, no matter what thought he read into that, I had to prove, as an officer of the revolution and as a party member, to him that a son of Lenin is a warrior convinced of the righteousness of

the cause for which he is fighting and is certainly no coward. I was not the only one thinking like this at the time. At that very decisive moment in the battle, the voice of the party secretary, Nasyr Ahmad, resounded and was heard by everyone: "The children of Lenin do not surrender!" We not only did not surrender (it was out of the question), but crushed the enemy. The party members were the first ones in the fighting....

I often meet with the party members of the regiment, one of the best in the DRA Armed Forces. Although I know that, by nature of their military specialty, artillerymen rarely attack, it is precisely this word--"attack"--that comes to mind when I write about the affairs of the regiment's party organization.

Members of the National Democratic Party of Afghanistan are not only an example of fearlessness during operations against bandits. They are waging an attack on illiteracy--a dangerous and insidious enemy of the revolution. But it is precisely illiteracy, the lack of education, which the counter-revolution is counting on.

In the regiment--thanks to the efforts of the party organization primarily--there exists a clear-cut system for eliminating illiteracy. The official activities of the commanders and political workers in this direction go hand in hand with the efforts of the regimental community: scheduled classes, study groups and patronage. The elimination of illiteracy among soldiers is a subject of paramount concern for the party committee. One can say that it is no less a concern than combat readiness. It is easy to conclude that combat readiness is inconceivable without literacy.

I was shown everything that was a subject of the regiment's pride. During the summer an Afghan-Soviet friendship room was added to the club which I saw back in the spring. The library and political education rooms were replenished substantially. A significant advance was made in expanding the training and material base: now there are rifle and miniature ranges. The equipment classroom coupled with the regimental artillery workshop, capable of conducting repair on a divisional level, is a complete complex for studying artillery equipment in the normal indoor classes as well as during its repair and recovery. At all of these "points" the secretary of the regimental party committee, Senior Lieutenant Muhammad Rahim, showed himself to be a highly informed guide: all these "firing objects" were constantly in sight of party activists.

To counterbalance their ideological enemies who are counting on a clogged state, religious pressure on the people and returning them to the feudal Middle Ages, the regimental party members, by educating the soldier masses, are opening people's eyes to life, to the events taking place in the country. They are carrying on this work by relying not on rote learning but on the comprehension of truth--these very words were spoken by the regiment's propagandist, Lieutenant Muhammad Yakub. This is why the party organization inseparably links teaching a soldier reading and writing with his ideological education.

In the Ministry of Defense, the main political directorate, and in the division in response to the question of what distinguishes this regiment, the answer was the same everywhere: "The regiment fights well." Why? Perhaps the most accurate answer was given in the regiment by both the regiment's commander, Colonel Gulyam Hazarat and his deputy for political affairs, Senior Captain Aka Muhammad: "Because of the military party organization."

A few statistics. Here is a note I made in the spring: "The Party stratum among officers--70 percent, overall--more than 10 percent." Now both figures have increased. Especially the second: the influx of soldiers into the party has increased. In a year and a half the party organization has doubled in size. During the past quarter alone 12 people were accepted as party members and 13 as candidates.

Additionally, the party organization makes great and comprehensive demands of those who decide to link their life with the party. Platoon commanders Senior Lieutenant Ikramutdin, Junior Lieutenants Muhammad Lal and Said Salam are excellent fighters. Here the party committee members made no pretensions for passing their candidacy probation. But their knowledge of regulations and program statutes and questions of current policies, in the unanimous opinion of the party committee members, did not conform to the title of party member officer. Their decision was to extend the candidacy term of all three by 6 months.

"We see the struggle for improving the quality of the party organization membership," says Muhammad Rahim, "not only in the ideological education work among party members, not only in barring admission to the party of the ideologically immature, particularly alien elements. It is important that everyone who joins the party is ready to become an ideological fighter. Without this a definitive victory of the April revolution is impossible. It is not enough to physically destroy the enemy. It is necessary to tear out the roots from people's consciousness. To do this one must know much...."

I did not have the occasion to see the artillerymen in battle. But even one acquaintance with the life within the regiment, with its party organization, is enough to sense the truth of the words: "The regiment fights well."

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AFGHANISTAN

SOVIET ARTILLERY BATTERY COMMANDER IN DRA PROFILED

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Jan 84 p 4

[Article by Lt Col Engr V. Sukhodol'skiy: "Award"]

[Text] They are now far from home. Under fire from the bandits, the drivers are leading peaceful columns with goods for Afghan villages and settlements. Every day the engineers set forth to clear mines. The artillerymen, assault troops and motorized riflemen confidently master military science, to win in a complex and at times difficult environment. True to their international duty, Soviet soldiers daily display endurance, courage and heroism.

That is why, in the Kabul International Airport, medals and decorations shine on the chests of those who are flying back to their homeland. Many were recognized with awards by the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA].

One of the many was Captain Vladimir Skiba, commander of an artillery battery.

I met him twice. The first time was at the former royal palace where the DRA Ministry of National Defense is located. Here, under the majestic palace arches, Col Gen Abdul Kadyr, DRA minister of national defense, presented the officer the high award of the Order of the Star, 3d Degree. I was not able to speak with Vladimir then, but a few days later I was in the very area where the battery which he commands was deployed. I saw Vladimir in greatcoat and steel helmet near the range-finding compass, among artillerymen-privates Ivan Korshak, Aleksandr Bardabus, Yuriy Azarov and Mikhail Shcherbachenko, and Jr Sgt Andrey Razdetov.

In Afghanistan there are garrisons where several subunits are located together or nearby. In two years, Vladimir Skiba changed his place of duty three times. Everywhere the garrison consisted of his single battery. And he, a young officer, for many tens of kilometers around was for the Afghan residents the chief representative of the "shuravi," [Russians] to whom they went for assistance and advice. He helped with transportation and shared food and fuel with them. On Sundays the soldiers of his battery came to work in the peasants' fields. They helped build a dam and repaired a school. They did everything with all their hearts and from pure hearts. The people feel this, and they distinguish a friend from one who is not a friend by his actions, and from his smile, the expression in his eyes, the tone of his voice and the warmth of his heart. Skiba will leave, but here in the villages, the huts of which yellow in

the rays of the setting sun at the foot of the two neighboring mountains, the villagers remember "Captain Volodya," who always understood them.

He was born and raised on the Dnieper in Zaporozhye. His father worked his entire life at the Zaporozhstal steel plant as a steel roller. Recently, Vladimir Fedotovitch Skiba was pensioned -- solemnly and simply in the worker's style. A few good words were said, presents were given, and people expressed honest sorrow at parting. His mother, Dariya Semenovna, is working even now in the plant as a machine operator. His wife, Larisa Vladimirovna, with whom he went to school in the same grade, also lives in Zaporozhye, where she raises their four year old son and waits -- for letters, and for Vladimir himself.

They attended Zaporozhye Intermediate School #1. I asked about their teachers, and Skiba happily began to talk about them. They were the best sort of people!

These people were Semen Stepanovich Kostyuk, a retired lieutenant colonel who taught history and social sciences and was their class leader from 7th to 10th grade, and Faina Yakovlevna Ioffe, their first teacher. To this day the whole class visits her, and loves and remembers her.

They love and remember. This is because their teachers lived and live not for themselves, but for others. And they were given one of the very highest awards -- the bright and eternal love of their students. And this talk about them, on Afghan soil far from Zaporozhye, is also an award.

We walk with Vladimir Skiba along a battery firing position deployed on a flat mountain top, and he tells about his military comrades.

He talks about Junior Sergeant Artur Frolenko and Senior Lieutenant Sergey Alevrov; good and reliable people with whom he shares everything, fifty-fifty.

The highest award in life is the respect and love of people; the love of one's nation, one's native soil, one's Fatherland. I know that the regard of our people for those who serve on Afghan soil is special. It is a loving regard, like that toward one's own best sons.

And let medals and decorations shine in the Kabul Airport.

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AFGHANISTAN

AFGHAN ARMY COMPANY'S COMBAT ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Jan 84 p 3

[Article by Col V. Filatov, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA special correspondent, "N" Unit, Peoples Armed Forces of Afghanistan: "Fury"]

[Text] Moving on slender, straight legs, like spokes in the sunlight, the antelopes walked unhurriedly along the hilly, burnt-coffee colored valley, until they came upon the broad, white ribbon of the village road. For an instant they froze motionless, their nostrils cutting through the strange smells. The antelopes became tense, and the lead one jumped lightly across the road. The second appeared to be a less capable jumper; possibly it was a pregnant female. Its hind legs fell into the edge of the far rut. The earth opened wide under its hoofs, thunder struck, lightning flashed, and the village road was cut in two.

At this very time, two armored personnel carriers were tearing along a kilometer from the site of the explosion on the same village road. In the lead vehicle were Sr Capt Abdul Khamit, the company commander, and a group of soldiers. In the rear was his deputy, Jr Lt Abdul Khabib, with a similar group of troops. Over the whine of the engines they heard the dull retort of a distant explosion, but they did not know with what it threatened them. Yesterday they had received information that the dushmani [bandits] had established a sort of weapons staging base in the village to which they were then headed. Twelve kilometers from the village, straight west, is the national border. At night shipments of weapons crossed the border.

Abdul Khamit's mission was specific: check out the report. Whether gathering or verifying information, it must be done in the same way -- with secrecy. And here was this strange sound of an explosion. The senior captain knew for certain that there were not supposed to be any explosions today in the area. In any case, the chance of taking unawares those whom they wished to take unawares had diminished, and this concerned him.

Having surmounted a long upgrade, the APCs clambered up to the level summit of the next hill. Each soldier sitting in the APCs had his observation sector, which he watched like he was watching the muzzle of an aimed pistol. This was the only way reliable all-round observation could be ensured. Just the same, the senior captain was first to see the part of the road which had been destroyed by the explosion.

They stopped. An ambush? But nothing disturbed the silence. Abdul Khamit had already been fighting for five years. He knew the enemy's habits very well. Machine guns may be lying in wait over there from that high point, there from that gully, or there from behind that rocky ridge. It may be that they do not shoot because they are waiting for his men to begin dismounting the BTRs, and then they will shoot them like chickens. To stop a column and force it to dismount is the dream of any ambush.

"Nasim, fire a short burst at that knoll," Abdul Khamit said quietly.

Jr Sgt Nasim sat behind the large caliber machine gun. Tracer rounds from the gun raised clouds of dust at the top of the knoll. Unoccupied. Otherwise they would have answered.

"Now we will do as follows," ordered the senior captain. "Nasim, fire short bursts, first at that gully, then at that rocky ridge line. The rest of you leap out of the BTR. You, Abdul Khabib, stay in place, watch and be ready. Act as you have been trained."

The apprehension turned out to be in vain. The soldiers were ordered not to move a step from the BTRs and to observe. The senior captain and junior lieutenant themselves moved to the crater to find out what was there. Mine layers can always calculate that when the first explodes the other soldiers will rush up to help, and they always lay mines for the others as well at some distance from each other. But during the course of this undeclared war, Abdul Khamit learned something which seemed entirely improbable and implausible. He learned to walk through minefields. He told me: "There is no secret to it. The main thing is to know where to place one's foot when one is walking. If you avoid the usual way of walking you can walk in a minefield. What is the usual way? Everyone tries to place his foot on a level place when he walks. This you must avoid. You must place your foot on a cut away section, lose rocks, or a rock just bigger than this. You must be able to feel where to put your foot..."

The crater was huge. Two pairs of antelope and one bloody hoof lay to the side. Obviously reconnaissance had made no mistake about this village.

"If they want to take us with their bare hands, then while we are here talking they are mining the road behind us, cutting off our way back."

"We must call the engineers immediately."

"If we call them we will have to wait and wait. That wastes time. While we wait for the engineers the bandits will cut the road a hundred times, and when we then appear in the village with the engineers we won't find even kitchen knives there. You stay here and wait for the engineers, and I will take the soldiers and go to the village."

"It's risky without the BTRs. These mines in the road were placed for us. Eventually they will come to check the results of the mining."

"Maybe in an hour."

"Maybe. But an hour will be enough for us. At least we will hold them in the village until you appear there with the BTRs and engineers."

They decided on this. They returned to the BTRs with a feeling of uncertainty: if the engineers are late; if the bandits detect the standing BTRs before the engineers come (they make ideal targets for rocket launcher teams); if in the village...? If, if! If only somewhere, sometime there was a battle without these "ifs."

The junior lieutenant immediately began to call the engineers on his portable radio transmitter. The senior captain ordered the soldiers to form up, and they did so. Then he ordered a machine gunner, sniper and four automatic riflemen to leave the formation. They stayed behind with the junior lieutenant. The senior captain ordered the rest: "To the right. Forward, march!" He led them from the road and the BTRs through a dry stream bed, straight to the village.

They marched each in the footprints of the one ahead. The dry camel burrs crunched under their boots like icy snow. Jr Sgt Nasim marched just behind the senior captain, and right behind Nasim were privates Akhmadulla, Samad Ali, Aziz, Sakhidod, Kamoledin, Chonus, Nakib -- in all 26 strong young fellows, each with a year of service under his belt. The exception was Aziz. He had already served two tours and was on his third. After he finished each of his terms of service he was discharged, but then returned again. Recently he arrived and said: "Comrade Senior Captain, I will serve as long as you do. We cannot yet enter the reserves. They are counting on us in the villages. Without us the revolution will not make it..."

For Aziz the revolution is a clear and understandable cause. Previously his father didn't have a plot of land, but now he has eight dzheribs (one dzherib equals 0.2 hectares). The revolution gave him this. This autumn in the bazaar one sir of wheat (one sir equals approximately 7 kg) cost 170 afgani, and the government sold Aziz' father and all the other poor villagers high-grade seeds for 120 afgani. And they also distributed fertilizer and helped with equipment. For Aziz the revolution is understandable, like bread or water. They killed his brother and two nephews. The people killed the local land-owner for land and water for irrigation. Aziz has 15 brothers and sisters. He knows very well that without these eight dzheribs of land half of his brothers and sisters would already have starved, and the other half would be bowing their backs just like slaves in the fields of the village rich man. Aziz can already read and write. He learned this in his subunit, where there are courses in the campaign against illiteracy for illiterates such as he had been. In the Army Aziz became a member of DOMA -- the Democratic Organization of the Youth of Afghanistan. No, for Aziz the revolution is truly a cause as clear as day.

The senior captain knows all there is to know about each of the 26 soldiers marching in his tracks. Their biographies are as identical as the leaves in the camel burrs which are all around them: Poverty and hunger before the

revolution. Revolution. Land. Water. Bandits. Battle for the revolution. It is this way for everyone who is for the revolution.

When they had only to cross the last steep slope to the village, the senior captain ordered the soldiers to stop. On the radio which Aziz carried, he transmitted to Jr Lt Abdul Khabib that he and his soldiers would enter the village not from the east but from the west. The junior lieutenant immediately understood the senior captain's plan. As soon as they go up the slope, everyone in the village will know of their approach. If there are bandits, they will begin to leave the village from the other side, taking the slope and gullies to and across the border. But if they enter the village from the west, the withdrawing bandits will fall under the machine guns of the two BTRs left in the road.

On the western side of the village they came across a smooth country road leading from the border. With his trained eye the senior captain determined that no later than that night a heavily laden Toyota had passed here. This meant that they are still hauling across the border. Not long before someone had told him that of late the bandits hauling weapons across the border were using night vision devices. Never mind, we will even catch those who drive without lights. We will also adapt. The Toyota had passed by with about three tons of cargo. For an instant Abdul Khamit imagined all these automatic rifle and machine gun barrels in green boxes, cartridges in air tight containers, grenades and mines intended to burn and kill his soldiers, himself, his relatives, loved ones and friends.

It is good to take the weapons out of one's enemy's hands, but it is better still not to let the enemy get his hands on them. And the senior captain was happy, like a man is happy who learns that someone very good luckily escaped harm. The revolution is a celebration for the poor. Abdul Khamit for five years already has been carrying that celebration within himself.

From reconnaissance he knew where the house was located in which the weapons were stored. Now, before entering the village the commander again reviewed with each soldier his place in the chain for combing the village, so that no one would lag behind or get lost in the throng of houses and emplacements, and so that each soldier would without fail always see at least one other walking in the chain, and would guard him in every way possible. And they entered the labyrinth of emplacements.

The emplacements exuded heat. Dust swirled under their boots. Heat, dust and silence. Not a single living soul. There is no worse sign. The soldiers see, understand and feel everything, and hold tight to the walls, creeping along them like shadows. It is not easy to take such places quickly, even though you fire in the entrance ways a dozen times. At their backs remain a number of houses, as if heavy gates had been lowered silently from behind. And the emplacements, roofs and ditches fired point blank at the soldiers. But before the bullets found their marks the soldiers lay down, spilling the village dust with their stomachs. The situation has changed somewhat. Now he who will prevail is the one whose eyes are sharper, whose fingers are quicker, whose nerves are sturdier and whose faith is stronger.

The question tears at Abdul Khamit: How many of them are there in the village? Ten? Twenty? A hundred? Judging by the density of fire there are many. The soldiers are already under cover -- some by the trees, some in the corners of houses, some by the rocks. Each is raining fire on the enemy. Jr Sgt Nasim lay with his automatic rifle further forward than the others. The billows of dust were coming ever closer to Abdul Khamit's soldiers. It seems that from minute to minute more and more barrels were firing on the other side. Oh, to have a "tongue" [an informer]. And the number firing from the other side is actually increasing. The village is really a hornet's nest.

A faded door of a dilapidated emplacement squeaked and the senior captain saw above him a dirty face and two wide, unblinking little boy's eyes. Abdul Khamit lay in the ditch and the boy hid behind the door. The boy furtively, yet completely impudently watched the man lying in the ditch, which was covered with dust like water.

"Well, what are you staring at? There is nothing to see; go home!" quietly ordered the senior captain.

But the kid did not even stir, and even stuck out his tongue at Abdul Khamit.

"They will hit you. Hide!" the senior captain frightened him again.

"And you, 'uncle,' who are you, a soldier?" asked the boy.

He did not particularly want to tell the boy that yes, he was a soldier, while he was sprawled out in the dust heap.

"Yes, I am a soldier. And who are you?"

"Nobody."

"And I bet you know everything here, just like a scout?" the senior captain asked sneakily.

"You want to take the house to which a vehicle brings weapons every night," the boy said, not waiting for questions. "The house is over there," the boy pointed somewhere to the front. "And there are as many bandits there as people in the bazaar. They load green boxes on camels and carry them away somewhere into the mountains."

"As many as in the bazaar?" Abdul Khamit was doubtful, wanting the boy to tell the number of bandits in the village, because if there really were as many as in the bazaar they would be too many for his 26 soldiers.

"I said like in the bazaar."

"You can't even round up so many people."

"Silly man, these soldiers are not our people, they came from outside. I said that they come here for weapons."

A burst of hot steel penetrated the emplacement and the boy slammed the door. "Fate sent us this good 'tongue'" the senior captain thought with gratitude. "But if there are as many as in the bazaar, it would be better for us to leave for now and await the APCs." The officer turned to Aziz who was nearby, and ordered him to tell everyone to pull back gradually. "Make it look like we are leaving the village to them," ordered the commander, already thinking about how they would operate when the BTRs moved in. At that moment, when Aziz had relayed the senior captain's order to everyone, it was reported:

"The junior sergeant is wounded."

Then right away came a clarification:

"In the leg."

The barrels firing on the other side had truly become numerous and would split the company in two. The bullets broke the branches on the trees, showered dry clay on the walls, and raised dust in the spaces between the emplacements. The senior captain saw that Jr Sgt Nasim was lying in front of everyone. The senior captain felt in his skin that behind the nearest emplacements they were already straining to jump out and seize the wounded soldier as booty, as a rich trophy. He knew in detail what would follow. The imprisoned wounded junior sergeant would immediately become more valuable to the bandits than many automatic rifles and machine guns. They would drag him away to still more remote villages and show him to everyone, saying: "Look here, they are surrendering by the bundle. The authorities have no support." They will drag him across the border and show him to foreign correspondents. They will make various statements in his name which discredit the government. Then, of course, they will do away with him. But before they do they will raise hell with him to the skies. The bandit bosses will pay fabulous sums of money for a soldier or junior commander captured alive, and even more for an officer.

Nasim was trying to turn around and crawl back. But apparently his strength had given out from loss of blood, and his body refused to obey his desires and efforts.

"Aziz, get in touch with the BTRs. What's with them?" ordered the senior captain.

In a minute Aziz reported that they were continuing to wait for the engineers. The bandits' turbans appeared above the huts. Now it was all going to happen. The bandits cut off the junior sergeant's escape route with bursts of automatic weapons fire. Each soldier understood that it was now all going to happen.

"Comrade Senior Captain, can I cover Nasim?" asked Private Akhmadulla, a tall, wiry soldier with the long, strong arms of a plowman. The senior captain was always amazed at how tiny the automatic rifle appeared in Akhmadulla's arms.

The senior captain had not managed to nod his agreement when an unseen force picked Akhmadulla from the ground. Firing on the run, he covered the open area in several leaps and lay down to the left front of the junior sergeant.

Akhmadulla was able to bang away with his automatic rifle. Now his bursts passed through the roofs of the emplacements behind which the enemy was hidden. The intensity of firing on the square lessened a bit. The senior captain saw Private Samad Ali crawling to Nasim. Before he had been in a splendid shelter -- a deep, dry irrigation canal. Now, trying not to waste the moment of silence, he crawled to Nasim in order to drag him under cover of the emplacements to his shelter. Samad Ali was small and frail, and seeing how swiftly he cut through the dust with his chest, and how well-coordinated his elbows and knees were working, pushing him off the ground, for a few seconds the senior captain was lost in admiration for his soldier -- for how much he resembled the graceful golden lizard in its own element.

And suddenly a shrill, hysterically excited voice sounded on the square like a dusty sand-storm:

"Soldiers, you are surrounded. Don't listen to your commanders. Surrender. Come over to our side. We have everything for you. Together we will destroy the infidels like dogs."

"A good amplifier," thought the senior captain. "None other than Japanese."

Samad Ali reached the prostrate Nasim. He crawled to his right side, put Nasim's arm around his neck, and dug his knees into the ground in order to crawl to his shelter. And then a bullet struck him. It hit him in the neck and passed under his collar-bone, breaking everything in his path. He was done for immediately and forever, but his heart still beat and from inertia it still pushed some strength into his arms and legs, and the soldier jerked forward with his burden. But they were jerks in one place, although it seemed to Samad Ali's dimming consciousness as though he was crawling very quickly and soon would be there. He writhed at Nasim's side and fell silent. Life flew from him like a bullet from a cobblestone. The senior captain recalled that all his life Samad Ali had been an errand boy for an inn-keeper, and ran through the streets with a four-wheeled cart selling cigarettes.

At that very instant, as little Samad Ali died in Nasim's embrace, a soldier jumped from his shelter and, first pressing himself to the ground, then jumping up again, rushed to the lying Nasim and Samad Ali. The senior captain immediately recognized him as Private Sakhidod. He was rather heavy, from strength, not fat, and was physically powerful. He had even been asked to join the Army free wrestling team. He declined. "We will fight on carpets after we have put in their graves all the sworn enemies of the revolution," he had told them. "This one could carry five away at one time," thought the senior captain.

Sakhidod ran to Nasim and Samad Ali, covering the last meters in a sort of improbable flight, pushing himself off the ground like from a swimming pool platform.

"We are running out of bullets," he heard Akhmadulla's shout.

Sakhidod unfastened the cartridge pouches from Nasim's and Samad Ali's automatic rifles and threw them a short distance to Akhmadulla, who was lying

ten meters from him. When he threw the pouches he noticed that the entire left side of Akhmadulla's face was covered with blood and he was time and again wiping his left eye, onto which blood was dripping like sweat.

"Aziz, what's with the BTRs?" shouted the senior captain.

In a minute Aziz reported that everything there was as before, except that nomads were approaching the BTRs. "So, Comrade Senior Captain," Abdul Khamit addressed himself, "this is called using your own rear support and reserves."

On the north side of the motionless BTRs three men were traveling by on camels. Rifle barrels stuck out on each one's back. The junior lieutenant went to meet the passersby. He didn't want them to approach within a grenade's throw of the vehicles. The riflemen around the vehicles caught every movement of those seated on the camels. The main thing was to not overlook a grenade launcher.

The riders stopped two steps from the junior lieutenant. They exchanged greetings. They asked about the soldiers' health. Abdul Khabib also asked questions. Yes, this is their route which they have traveled from time immemorial, they pointed along the village road. The junior lieutenant asked how it is that their nomadic route had been mined with anti-personnel and anti-tank mines. One of the three answered. He had heavy wrinkles on his withered face, as a result of which his face looked as if it were cut out of a piece of dark wood. The three exchanged glances at the question about the mines. They did not believe it. Then the junior lieutenant decided to lead them closer to the road and show them the crater. They looked without dismounting the camels.

"We know who did this and why," said the one with the wrinkles.

"So do we," answered the junior lieutenant. "But now our men are fighting there." He nodded in the direction of the village, from where even now the muffled sound of firing reached them. "But we can't help them at all, because we don't know whether the road ahead is full of mines. If this is your route, then take care of it," he said out of powerlessness, because he could well imagine how it was there for the senior captain and his soldiers.

"But do you have no engineers?" asked the one who had been doing all the talking.

"Father, I see that you are a real military specialist, but we have no engineers. Perhaps you would work in their stead?"

The three were silent. Then the one who had been speaking said briefly: "Perhaps we will."

They turned their camels around and, whipping their sides, quickly disappeared behind the steep slope where their herd of sheep and camels was grazing.

"Everyone take up combat positions. If they are the bandit reconnaissance it will begin in a minute," ordered the junior lieutenant.

A sniper's bullet struck down Akhmadulla. It came from somewhere to the right, though a gap in the emplacement. It hit right between his thick black eyebrows. The hot bullet tore into his brain when it contained nothing but fury and the thought not to give the enemy even the bodies of his comrades. With this fury and this thought in his mind, the whole world grew dark for the soldier. He fell with his face on his trembling automatic rifle, because, already dead, he did not release the trigger, and the weapon fell silent only when it had fired its last bullet. In the village near Kabul where Akhmadulla was born and raised, the youngest of his 13 sisters suddenly cried loudly. She was quieted but continued to sob, and no one understood why she was crying.

Sakhidod was closest to Akhmadulla. Akhmadulla's silence gave courage to the enemy. Many of their turbans appeared above the emplacements, from around the corners and on the roofs. Sakhidod quickly jerked his automatic rifle from behind his back. Now he alone had to protect three.

The senior captain understood that here in the village, among the houses, in these narrow streets they could not overcome the enemy. There were more of them; they had prepared the terrain in advance to repulse an attack; and another important factor, they were fighting with the fury of the doomed. There was no place to which they could withdraw. The route to the border had been cut, and they could get there only through the soldiers who, for some reason, had descended on the village from the west, from the border side. That meant they could only go forward. The yellow-foamed fury of the doomed struck against the wall of the fury of the just and pure, just like the revolution itself. The senior captain had two BTRs in reserve. If they could get here now, then having lured the bandits into the open field they could do away with them in an instant. But there were no BTRs and the bandits, sensing the taste of the blood of the soldiers lying in the field, intensified the pressure.

"Soldiers, give up," sounded an overstrained howl. "You are guilty of nothing. Your commanders are responsible for everything. You will receive a lot of money if you come over to our side with your weapons."

And then the senior captain saw a soldier. He was running along the emplacement, automatic rifle raised high in his right hand. Both his own troops and the enemy saw him clearly. The enemy were on the other side of the emplacement, and the soldier was running almost above them. It was none other than Kamoledin. He was the most handsome soldier in the company, perhaps in the entire regiment. In the company they called him "artist." He was not only outwardly handsome, like an artist, but also had a marvelous voice, and in the evenings soldiers gathered around the barracks and he sang for them right up to retreat. The ensemble came after him. It happened in the evening. Kamoledin left the barracks and began to sing like always. All the grounds around the barracks filled quickly. The soldiers stood and sat where they could. And Kamoledin sang. He sang for a long time, even after it had become completely dark. Then he told the people from the ensemble: "You see how many listen to me here. There are as many as listen to the whole ensemble." And he didn't go anywhere. And now he was running along the emplacement with his rifle raised. It was so unexpected that no one fired at him.

And suddenly explosions began there among the bandits. Now everyone could already see clearly that as he ran Kamoledin was throwing grenades behind the emplacement where the bandits were ensconced. The senior captain counted eight explosions. He knew perfectly well that there would be no more, since he had himself given out eight grenades just before the raid. Kamoledin came to the end of the emplacement and the beginning of the roof of a house. He should have gotten off the emplacement and lay down in the gully, but something incomprehensible happened to him, and instead he jumped onto the edge of the roof and began to spray the enemy, who were hiding deep in the courtyard, with his automatic rifle. The rifle trembled furiously in his arms, and he either sang or shouted something as he jumped to the very edge of the roof.

A bullet struck him in the stomach, or perhaps it was several bullets at once. He threw down the rifle, bent over double, and began to move back along the roof. He reached the other side, fell below and expired next to Akhmadulla. Meanwhile, privates Chonus and Nakib reached Sakhidod. And on the emplacement ridges and roof inclines the bandits appeared, with flapping turbans and weapons held horizontally. They appeared all at once, apparently on command and from various sides. They did not shoot. They jumped quickly, scattering out on the ground, and rushed those who were lying dead in the square and the three who had covered their fallen comrades with their bodies. Sakhidod, Chonus and Nakib rose up from the ground. Knives flashed in someone's hands. The senior captain jumped up and rushed to the aid of his three soldiers. Behind the senior captain ran his soldiers.

While running he gazed at the enemy he had picked out for himself. He differed in some way from all the others. Perhaps it was his commanding face, or perhaps his bearing which was not at all that of a peasant. In short, the senior captain sensed that this one whom he had marked for himself was at the center of the hand-to-hand combat. Abdul Khamit caught him by the sleeve of his ample shirt, seized him by the elbow, and tensed up in order to raise him in the air and crash him to the ground in a familiar motion. But he felt resistance and felt another's muscles swell mightily like iron under his fingers. He noted that the man was trained like a good fighting man. Abdul Khamit flung his arm and grabbed him. The smell of shampoo struck his nose. The jackal left the bath not long ago, his brain registered automatically. "Grr, devil," his enemy snarled and bit Abdul Khamit in the neck. This weakened him in the arms and legs. With his chest Abdul Khamit lifted him off the ground and, turning him over on his back, arched his back and forced him to the ground. The bandit hit the ground heavily, exhaled and did not open his eyes.

Freeing himself from under the enemy, Abdul Khamit saw nearly in front of his eyes a pair of elegant French running shoes engaged in an intricate dance, next to a pair of soldier's boots doing the same dance. Getting up from the ground, Abdul Khamit seized this pair of feet dressed in running shoes just above the ankles, raised them over his shoulders, and struck his enemy to the ground like one would remove the grains from a sheaf of rice by beating it against a log. Then he heard a shot thundering nearly above his ear, turned around, and Aziz sunk to the ground next to his shoulder. The bullet which cut short the life of Aziz was intended for the senior captain. Aziz had covered his commander with his own body. The bandit who had fired was located some five steps from

Abdul Khamit. He had succeeded in again opening fire, and the senior captain had not. But a soldier's bullet flew from somewhere to the side, as Abdul Khamit determined from the sound, and the bandit sunk to the ground, as though slithering down an unseen wall.

Two bandits immediately rushed the senior captain from the left and rear. The one who attacked from the left jumped and struck him in the side with his foot, and tumbled him onto his back. This may have saved Abdul Khamit, because both enemies then ended up to his front and he, still lying down, disabled one by striking him in the groin and knocked the other one down with a straight boxer's punch. Immediately he felt a new weight on his shoulders; two bandits were hanging on them. "Where are the machine gunners. I ordered them to cut the bandits off from the square," thought the senior captain wearily, extricating his shoulders from the strong grasp of the bandits in order to face them directly. He felt a fierce blow in the side, by his kidneys, and fell to the ground. They were already twisting his arms behind him and bringing all their weight to bear on his legs. At first he tried merely to catch his breath from the incomprehensible blow. Suddenly not his enemies, but the bloody face of Sakhidod, was over him. The soldier took his commander's arm and jerked him to his feet. And the commander saw that there were more people in turbans than in soldiers' caps in the square. At last the machine gunners were firing. But now it seemed that this was no longer solving anything. The bandits' turbans were overwhelming the soldiers' caps.

Forgetting about the sharp pain in his side, the senior captain threw himself into the very thick of the fight. It seemed that the bandits had already dragged some of his soldiers, living and dead, from the square. For some reason the machine guns fell silent, and again only muffled blows, sharp exhalations and vicious spitting were heard on the square. He immediately grabbed the throat of the one who had cut down Chonus with the blow of a knife. But Abdul Khamit also felt the enemy's hands on his own throat. They fell thus, seemingly in an embrace if one looked from the side. But each hurried to be first to squeeze out the breath of his enemy. The bandit wheezed, but his fingers were like iron. Abdul Khamit thought that if his enemy overcame him now, then he, a senior captain, would have harmed the revolution. He thought further that if his enemy now were the victor, then Aziz would have died in vain. Then he thought that if his enemy beat him now, then he, Abdul Khamit, would never see the revolution triumph over all of its enemies. And this he wanted more than anything else in life. And he lowered his shoulders and head, and then with his last strength tore himself out from under the fingers of his enemy, first downwards, running his nose along the buttons on his enemy's chest, then upwards, and squeezed out of his grasp.

When his enemy died and Abdul Khamit fell over on his back, in the first minute he could not understand what had happened during those last seconds. The bandits were lying all over the square interspersed with the soldiers. The bandits were seated here and there, and soldiers, his soldiers, were walking along the square. Then he saw riders with rifles. They were pressing the bandits with arms outstretched against the emplacements. And just a second later he saw his BTRs on the sides of the square. How did they get here? Joy from the unexpected good fortune welled-up in his throat, which was barely able

to admit short breaths of air into his wheezing lungs. Jr Lt Abdul Khabib was already running madly toward him. He grasped the senior captain by his shoulders, began to raise him up on his feet, fervently telling him how the nomads had driven a herd of camels; how they had directed the camels along the road toward the village in lieu of engineers with mine detectors; how the BTRs had moved behind the herd; how they had formed a nomad self-defense detachment -- and that they had succeeded.

They helped the injured and gathered up the dead. Their names were Jr Sgt Nasim and privates Akhmadulla, Samad Ali, Aziz, Sakhidod, Kamoledin, Chonus and Nakib.

The weapons staging base and 140 bandit-mercenaries were captured.

Jr Lt Dorofeyev Stanislav Igorevich translated the story of Sr Capt Abdul Khamit.

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