

THE HISTORY OF STUDYING FRONT LETTERS OF PARTICIPANTS OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR OF UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract: *The article analyzes the letters of soldiers and officers participating in the Second World War. The cultural and communicative functions of epistolary messages are also examined.*

Key words: *Second World War, epistolary text, letters, ideology, historical source, normative acts, newspaper, envelope, source study complex.*

INTRODUCTION

The farther the era of World War II leaves us, the more important are the documents of that heroic time - letters, newspapers, leaflets, posters, photographs. They are the most important subject for studying military history and cause great interest to a wide readership. The personal letters of the front-line soldiers are of particular interest, being a valuable historical source, including for studying the historical appearance of the participants in World War II.

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, scientists are very keenly faced with the question of a deeper study of the country's past by domestic historical science. The Second World War brought untold misery and suffering to mankind. The history of our country provides many examples where the mobilization of potential opportunities made it possible to overcome crises. In those fiery years, the whole people of Uzbekistan, young and old, lived and worked tirelessly with a single goal: "Everything is for the front, everything is for victory!" Thousands of Uzbeks worked in the rear, the republic accepted refugees, evacuated enterprises, provided the front.

RESEARCH METHODS

As the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev noted at the celebration dedicated to the Day of Remembrance and Honor: "I urge all of you to

study history even more deeply, more actively. Only those who draw conclusions from the lessons of history can effectively resist the various challenges and threats of the modern world. He is able to objectively and fairly assess both the current situation and future processes. In our difficult, rapidly changing time, this is the most important condition for ensuring peace, stability and progress. Young people must realize thanks to whom for almost 75 years we have been living in peace and tranquility, not knowing what war is" [1.p. 1] .

For the study of the difficult life path of our compatriots who have made a worthy contribution to the Great Victory, an analysis of written sources is important. Letters from the front are still carefully kept in many families. Each triangle has its own story: happy or sad. It also happened that sometimes news from the front that a native person is alive and well came after a terrible government envelope. And mothers and wives believed: the funeral came by mistake. And they waited for years, decades. Letters from the fronts of the Second World War are documents of great power. In the smelling lines of gunpowder are the breath of war, the rudeness of harsh trench everyday life, the tenderness of a soldier's heart, faith in Victory ...

During the war years, great importance was attached to the decoration of front and rear connecting mail - envelopes, postcards, paper. This is a kind of artistic chronicle of the times of military hard times, an appeal to the heroic past of our ancestors, a call to a merciless struggle with the invaders.

With the outbreak of hostilities, millions of people ended up in the army. There was a massive evacuation from the front line. Many people changed addresses, place of residence. The war separated thousands of families. All hope was to the post office, which helped to find loved ones - in the rear and at the front. Thousands of letters, postcards, newspapers and magazines went to the front every day. No less letters were sent from the front - to different cities, towns, and villages, to where relatives were left. Today it is almost impossible to find a museum or archive, wherever the letters of the front-line soldiers are kept, to which researchers sometimes "do not get their hands". But the history of the Second World War through the eyes of its participants is an important historical source. And experts believe that the work of collecting letters from the front should be continued, because the custodians of soldiers' letters

die. This will significantly expand the source field of the study of the history of Uzbekistan for the study of the Second World War. As the first President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov noted: “Years of War are an integral part of the history of Uzbekistan. This is our story, and no one has the right to forget it.” [2.p.12].

According to data, out of the 6.5 million inhabitants of the country, almost 1.5 million people went to the front. About 500 thousand soldiers died in the struggle for the Fatherland, 130 thousand were missing. For example, the population of Andizhan region at the beginning of the war was 614.5 thousand, of which 97.5 thousand were called up for military service. Only 54 thousand returned, of which 40.9 thousand became disabled [3.p. 15-18]. Old men, fathers and mothers, escorting their sons to the front, gave them parting words to be brave and courageous fighters, always to be in the forefront, fight like heroes and return only with victory.

Today, when the question of patriotic education of youth arises very sharply, it is very important to study the entire arsenal of funds developed during the Second World War, since the experience of the military press is invaluable. There is still material evidence of that time - these are newspapers. The experience of all wars proves that Victory is achieved not only by weapons, but primarily by high morale. And if today the military press is a true source of information, then at that time it was that inexhaustible source that helped to win the Victory. Today, great attention is paid to the study of the features of the press during the war. However, as historians have noted, this issue has not been fully studied; ideas about the wartime press “are fragmented”

There are a number of works on the Uzbek press during the war. For example, the work of T. Ernazarov, A. Akbarov, “The History of the Press of Uzbekistan (1925-1952),” highlighted the creation and strengthening of front-line printing in the Uzbek language. The authors note that only in 1943, 13 frontline and 3 division newspapers in the Uzbek language were published on the fronts of World War II [4. p.436-437]. It should be noted that such writers and journalists as M. Ismoiliiy, Iles Muslim, Nazarmat, Adham Rakhmat, N. Safarov, Ibrokhim Rakhim, Z. Fathullin, Adham Hamdam were directly participants and eyewitnesses of the period when they

prepared their publications for such front-line newspapers like “The Red Army”, “True Front”, “Suvorovets”, “For the Homeland”, “Red Army Truth” published in the Uzbek language [5.493]. For example, the newspaper “For Homeland” in the Uzbek language was published on October 29, 1942, edited first by A. Kruzhkov, later D. Chekulaev, Sh. Bulatov and H. Riskulov. Warriors from Uzbekistan wrote in the newspaper, where in their front-line letters they reflected front-line daily routines. The facts of the front-line daily routine reported by the military personnel in the text of personal letters were grouped into descriptions of the front-line daily routine and descriptions of the activities and activities of the front-line soldier in this space. Among the descriptions of the space of frontline daily life, a number of reports can be distinguished: on combat supply and technical support of troops (weapons, ammunition, means of protection, movement, communications, etc.), on housing, supply of food and uniforms, on sanitary and hygienic conditions and medical care, monetary allowance [6.p.15].

In addition, among the reports on the daily activities and activities of the serviceman, one can single out reports on the fulfillment of official duties: guarding, servicing military equipment, caring for personal weapons, and performing other tasks specific to military branches and military professions, i.e. everything that makes up the daily routine. From a letter from the captain K. Zhongaliev’s guard: “Red Army soldier Muradullo Pozilov is an experienced sniper in our unit. He killed 50 Germans on October 23, 1942. His merits were recorded on the honor board.” [7.p.1] In addition, among this group of everyday facts of front-line soldiers, reflected in their letters, we can mention reports of leisure practices, including organized ones, and, of course, about communication with the rear (correspondence with relatives, parcels, patronage, holidays). Front-line letters are quite well preserved, which made it possible to collect and group them in funds and in museums. Archival and museum collections of letters from war veterans are disparate collections of epistolary documents. They were grouped in the process of collecting practice for the purpose of their storage and display. Unlike individual collections, the source complex is a more extensive, conditionally united collection of letters in Uzbekistan. We should study more deeply the difficult life path of our

compatriots who made a worthy contribution to the Great Victory, their courage and heroism. The research interest in analyzing the front-line epistolary heritage is very obvious and quite justified. The analysis of letters makes it possible to compare and verify factual information about the front-line environment, to specify ways and means of forming a memory of the war. Of the huge number of epistolary texts, the personal letters of front-line soldiers-natives of Uzbekistan are of particular interest. On a par with letters written by representatives of other regions of the country, they are a valuable historical source for studying the psychology of participants in the Second World War, as well as for determining the development factors of the epistolary culture as a whole. The choice of the epistolary texts of the Uzbek front-line soldiers is explained by the desire to show through the analysis of one of its components the general and the special in the system of the frontal epistolary culture, as well as to reveal the specifics of the epistolary complex deposited in the archives and museums of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Front-line writing is regarded as a specific phenomenon of Russian written culture of the 40s of the XX century. Considering that the epistolary text as a special form of literature has been studied very fragmentarily, the analysis of front-line letters with regard to their linguistic, extralinguistic and psychosemantic features is very relevant. With this approach, private correspondence allows us to draw conclusions about the specific ideas of soldiers and officers, about vital and existential values. Elements of the personal psychology of military personnel, reflected in the texts of their letters, testify to the peculiarities of attitude, behavior, lifestyle and circle of communication, as well as the interests of front-line soldiers, make it possible to reconstruct the stages of personal development, identify strategies for frontline epistolary communication and determine the gender characteristics of human behavioral practices on the war. For example, in the articles of I. Yu. Moiseeva, the socio-psychological aspects of the history of the Second World War are touched upon, the features of the tender analysis of front-line letters are disclosed. [8.36-39].

Working with front-line letters is not easy. Almost all of them are handwritten, only a small number are typed. Letters were written on poor quality paper, often on a

wrapping paper and on newspaper sheets, there are letters based on illustrations taken from books and even fragments of field maps. Many are written with a simple pencil or completely faded becoming completely unreadable.

It is worth noting that the letters often arrived already damaged: many of them are deformed, store traces of water and dirt, which indicates the conditions under which these lines were written. Authors of letters themselves often mention how difficult it was for them to write a letter. Indeed, many decided to give the news to their relatives before the start of the battle, or even lying in the trench, in the rain. The letter often became their last chance, the hope to say the most cordial words to their loved ones and relatives. It is also known how difficult letters were delivered from the front line [9].

The texts of the letters, unfortunately, are fading. Inevitably, there is an urgent need to digitize an array of letters and create an appropriate database with the subsequent presentation of the received electronic resource on the Internet. This is not an easy task, but if it is successfully completed, the opportunity will be created for using the information received in a wide variety of areas and aspects, including for a fuller idea that the Great Victory in World War II was achieved by the people in stubborn battles for their homeland [9, p.41].

Thus, front-line letters indicate that the war- determined rhythm of everyday life, which was distinguished by the daily confrontation of the human body with a variety of stressful situations, was maintained only by people with a stable nervous system. Sometimes, in their letters, war veterans described inadequate mental reactions of fellow soldiers, manifested both in an increased level of aggressiveness and in extreme vulnerability, which was not least due to harsh living conditions. Front-line letters confirm that the vast majority of servicemen were able to adapt to the extreme conditions of the war. In this regard, the letters recorded the process of forming among the front-line soldiers a specific individual-personality psychology formed by everyday war practices.

CONCLUSION

Each family has its own story. Each family has its own casket, which stores front-line letters, photographs and military awards. But all are united by one- common

involvement in the history of World War II. Until now, letters from the front, burnt, torn, half-rotten, touch us to the core. Over the years, the lessons of that war are bitter and victorious. And every time on the Day of Remembrance and Honor, the words: “The feat of the people are immortal” somehow solemnly sound.

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