

The tragedy of Soviet war prisoners' life: Nazi imprisonment and repatriation to Motherland

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Abstract. This article has made the attempt to review of war prisoners' problem in the light of war prisoners' fate which after the repatriation to Motherland reprised. **The object of** research is power and person interrelations problem in the Soviet state in the period of Stalin's ruling. **Methods:** World War II is considered here as a global struggle between alternative models, i.e. struggle between totalitarian utopia and real liberal democracy. **Facts:** Soviet soldiers and officers who were taken imprisonment regardless of its behavior in prison, even though a successful escape and participation in the guerrilla movement, accused of treason. **Basic concept:** In the minds of the leaders of the Soviet state, atrophied of civil war cruelty and impunity for atrocities in the years of terror, there was no concept of honor, dignity and respect for the principles of law and morality. Therefore soldiers defeated Nazism in his homeland called "traitors", "betrayer" and become social misfits.

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1. Introduction

The twentieth century was marked by two world wars, revolutions and civil wars that brought mankind innumerable misfortunes. The First World War brought down the existing world order and its basic ideas, was the starting point of a new stage in the history of European civilization. On the one hand, it made a contribution to ruin large multinational empires and absolute monarchies. On the other hand, it has aggravated the spiritual crisis of industrial civilization, had begun ideological, spiritual agitation in European society, and had appeared even moral degradation signs of certain social stratum. World War II was a reflection of the deep crisis tendencies characteristic of Western civilization development of the first decades of the twentieth century. Model of social development that formed in the West in the prewar period had exhausted. These phenomena in the most developed countries had led to recognition of the need to improve the political, economic and social systems, as well as created new forms of spiritual pursuit, which resulted in the formation of new civilizational paradigm. And in countries where economic development was accompanied by the spiritual stagnation of society, lumpenization radicalization had strengthened which enhanced activation of far right and far left forces, which in turn led to the generation of totalitarian societies.

Totalitarian society as a well-adjusted mechanism of the individual's aspirations suppression, not sanctioned by the state ideology, and depriving him of any freedom of choice appeared in two major European countries - Germany and Russia. This mode having inherent in specificity was

different from despotism in past, in the twentieth century suppression scale were different as the improved mechanism of people's extermination. If German Nazism (fascism) established in the center of Europe, really showed the world an unexpected downside, the underside of Western civilization, then Soviet totalitarianism tried to extirpate the established for centuries in Eurasia the cultural and civilizational archetypes. During this period there have been several impliable options of social development. For each model there were certain social and political forces, so the global struggle between alternative models, i.e. struggle between totalitarian utopia and real liberal democracy began. This struggle led to more destructive catastrophe – the Second World War. In World War I the priority was given to geopolitical goals, and during the Second World War was a struggle between ideologies. All these phenomena are reflected in the period of the Second World War, it was on the same field – in the fate of war prisoners.

History of war prisoners of the Second World War is a difficult and complex question that throughout the existence of the Soviet regime remained closed, as if covered then through the prism of the heroism of the Soviet people in Nazi concentration camps from the 90s, in Russia an intensive study of the history of German war prisoners had conducted. However, concerning the study of the history of Soviet war prisoners in the Third Reich did not have to talk about the intensity or activity, only one aspect of the problem is well studied - the repatriation of Soviet war prisoners. The most comprehensive and serious study of the

repatriation problem are the work of P. Polian (Polian, 1996; 2001). There is also considered the position of Soviet war prisoners and ostarbeiters in Germany, however, the priority is given exactly thorough repatriation study of these two categories of Soviet citizens. Be sure to highlight the author of the general group of researchers of modern Russia, as he believes that the Soviet war prisoners were victims of two totalitarian dictatorships suffered during the war against the Nazis, and after the war - from harassment and persecution of Soviet power. Study of A. Shneers is different in equipment of factual material, critical attitude to the policy of the Soviet and Nazi authorities and judgments and estimates categoricity of the results of illegal policies of these countries [Shneer, 2005].

Various aspects of the problem of repatriation of Soviet citizens war prisoners and deported to Germany are envisaging in the work and Y.N Arzamaskin on (Arzamaskin, 2001). History of World War II war prisoners has long been successfully developed Western, in particular, the German researchers. Monograph of H. Streit - the most complete and documented chronicle of the tragedy of Soviet war prisoners in Nazi concentration camps (Streit, 1991). Statistical data presented in his book now cited in nearly all Russian studies criticizing the policy of extermination of Soviet war prisoners in the Third Reich. However, some German researchers have expressed doubts about the information about of total number and the number of those killed in captivity Soviet war prisoners.

These datas are given in the book H. Streit, diverge with the official Russian statistics. But the analysis of documents results and other archival materials obtained H. Streit, very valuable for researchers involved in the study of ideological struggle problems between Nazism and Bolshevism.

Policy of extermination of Soviet war prisoners, held by the Gestapo and participating in the armed forces of Nazi Germany investigated in R. Otto work (Otto, 1998). Author on the basis of documentary material illuminates the plight of Soviet war prisoners in the first war year, proves that this situation was mainly due not to the objective conditions of the war years, as a deliberate policy of the Nazi dictatorship. In Germany, there is an intensive introduction to the scientific revolution of archival materials relating to the history of individual war camps prisoner. Scientists are studying the history of regional universities camps in the German lands, thereby complementing the problems of military historiography captivity during the Second World War (Stelz-Marx, 2000).

After the breakup of the Soviet Union there was began publishing joint research of scientists in

Germany and post-Soviet countries. In published works in this period there were new assessment; ideological stereotypes of the "cold war" gave way to a weighted analysis (Kriegsgefangene, 1995; Die Tragedie, 1998). Markedly has intensified the interest of Western researchers to the tragic fate of World War II prisonerin recent years (MacKeinze, 1994; Berkhoff, 2001; Spörer, 2001).

However interesting and important aspect of the military captivity history is the human aspect, etc. the fate of a particular person to get lost among the millions of victims of totalitarianism, is still poorly studied.

2. Methods

In the sense of global vision of researched problem relied on civilizational theory pertaining to linear interpretations of the history of development human society. World wars of the first half of the twentieth century as a period considered here civilizational break: the First World War reflected the crisis of industrial civilization, and the interwar period and World War II began a transition stage - a period of crisis – the decline of the industrial and post-industrial civilizations formation.

Policy of Nazi and Soviet authorities on the issue of war prisoners is analyzed based on the concept of democratic and totalitarian states. When analyzing the practices of abuse Wehrmacht and the Red Army war prisoners were guided by social and philosophical ideas about the "totalitarian man."

Man of the totalitarian domination entirely subordinate to the state, seeks to comply with national stereotypes. These stereotypes determined the behavior of almost all government and military leaders of Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union during Stalin's reign. The concept of "Soviet man formation" was provided education " fully developed " personality, characterized by high spirituality , "Soviet people " had to recognize the priority of public interest over personal, work conscientiously for the good of society, to deny all that is created in the "bourgeois society. This idealized type of "new man" was supposed to be a model for all Soviet citizens who were in an emergency situation. In a totalitarian society officials see personality abstract unit, which can be re-unite and in mass, united by a common ideology. In the Soviet Union it was known as a socialist nation, and in Nazi Germany - "Aryans". But even in a totalitarian society, identity does not disappear; it shows your personality in other ways. Therefore, in extreme situations (for example, in captivity) vividly manifested those qualities that vaccinated person "ideological re-education", namely hidden, muffled unification, individual qualities. At the researching the studied problem there were

guided an idea of extraterritoriality research, i.e. dissertation author's conclusions arising from the analysis of the sources and scientific papers of previous investigators, are not limited by national, class or class factors.

2. Materials and Results

During the Second World War territory of Germany and occupied countries were covered with a dense network of concentration camps, war prisoner camps and work camps, soldiers have gone through the anti-Hitler coalitions, who were taken prisoner. War prisoners raced on foot from all sectors of the front in prefabricated camps. Most of these were bare patches of land barbed wired and totally unfit for war prisoners. Certain part of war prisoners died in route from continuous walking and exhaustion, many arriving at the camp exhausted and did not overwork kept in camps in the early months. So, on November 9, 1941 Head of war prisoners in Reich Security Main Office in its report said that the commandants of all camps complain that 5-10% of prisoners of war arrived in camp "half dead» (Streim, 1982: 74). In the first months of the war with the Soviet Union the Germans had to adapt to any space camps, prisons, schools, businesses destroyed buildings, even old career and sometimes organized camp from scratch, fenced with wire. Soviet war prisoners in July-September 1941 were located in these temporary camps. In these camps, the conditions were unbearable, prisoners died every day. The high mortality rate among Soviet prisoners of war noticed even the Germans. So, July 10, 1941 a representative of the ministry in the Eastern Survey Organization, Todt X. Dorsch said Reich Minister A. Rosenberg of inhuman condition of prisoners in a camp in Minsk: "The camp for prisoners in Minsk, indoor area, such as Vilgelmplatts placed approximately 100,000 prisoners of war and civilian prisoners 40,000. Prisoners are kept together in close quarters, almost cannot move and are forced to perform their natural need for a place where they stand. The camp is protected by a company of soldiers. A guard camp with little force, allocated to protect the team, is only possible when applying the cruelest methods. Camp food supply problem is not solved, the prisoners partially from 6 to 8 days remain without food and hunger caused by animal apathy experiencing only one desire: to find something edible» (Dokumente, 1993: 25-26).

H. Streit writes that organization cases for the treatment of war prisoners, the problems of accommodation, food, military evacuation and using of labor prisoners in Nazi tops already considered the first half of 1941. During the trial of General Reynard of Wehrmacht General Staff claimed that Keitel told

him around May 1941 that there may be a war against the Soviet Union, so it should give instructions about teaching staffs of war prisoners camps and camps preparation in eastern Germany. While Keitel banned to erect any buildings, preparatory activities should be carried out only on the training grounds. According to other sources, before the war with the Soviet Union had orders to prepare a place for camps. In the war diary VI military industrial inspection preserved a record of May 30, 1941 It is reported that the administration and management of 4-Corps in mid-April, requested the military-industrial inspection for assistance with necessary materials for the construction of new camps of war prisoners. From the statements of employees of administrative management 4 Corps can conclude that the war prisoners which will be contained in these camps, had themselves to arrange a living room on an empty walled site (Streit, 1991: 72-73). This assumption is supported by the German explorer and memories former war prisoners. P. Pirogov said: "Many thousands of prisoners taken in the first days of the war, was placed in a rare spruce, surrounded by wire... Upon the occurrence of rainy and cold weather there was a question about the shelter. An output was to build dugouts. But what? Germans could get the tool, but they never thought about it. It was had to turn to the experience of Stone Age human... A pit dug with aluminum bowler who he had, with aluminum spoon, but more with sharpened sticks and bare hands. A pit was digged: in length - a man's height, in width - space for two people, shoulder to shoulder, in a deep - almost as a man's height. Stairs to exit had left at the foot. ... Those who had aluminum spoons, they made a burr on the flat handle, so that sort of turned nail files. With that thing they cut trees for a few days. ... The results of a two-week or more of work come to fruition. In the dugout, even in bad weather, it was cozy and warm enough. A month later, all the people went underground... The Germans were astonished Russian wit, photographed. Already very weakened, in September and October, we were sent to Germany" (Dugas, Cheron, 1994: 111-112).

By order of the Wehrmacht Supreme Command to the Treatment of war prisoners in the case of implementation "Barbarossa" plan, provided for the establishment in East Prussia and Poland, reception centers, camps and teams 6-8 permanent camps for Soviet war prisoners, and in the rest of the German Empire - the creation of 19 permanent camps for war prisoners of privates and separate camps for captured officers, the capacity of each camp was determined in the range of 30 000 - 50 000 people. Criterion in determining the capacity of the camp was the capacity to prevent riots and mass escapes of

prisoners, as well as emerging epidemics. In general, the Nazi leadership on the attack to the Soviet Union suggested that a prisoner will be 2.3 million Red Army soldiers. Permanent camps for war prisoners of privates and sergeants were calculated for ten thousand people. Around the camp there was a high wire fence, within two rows of barracks were located; each barrack was surrounded by barbed wire. In each barrack placed 200-250 people. In the outer fence there were watchtowers. Soldiers carried an external security on the watchtowers and soldiers with dogs bypassing camp. Barracks were patrolled sentries inside the camp along the streets. It was forbidden to leave the fences surrounding the barracks. Policemen had to wake war prisoners in summer at 5, in winter at 6:00 am and build them for verification. After checking they were not allowed in barrack, barrack emptied before the evening curfew. The internal furniture of barracks for Soviet and Western war prisoners was different. Soviet war prisoners in 1941-1942 years contained in a very crowded barracks, slept on the bare boards and sometimes on straw mattresses. In the barracks of Western prisoners there were also crowded, but they slept on normal mattresses, had tables for personal belongings, could hang pictures of relatives, cook food on a small stove, read the newspaper, etc. Camps were almost on self catering; among the prisoners were representatives of various professions. In the camp there were carpentry, metalwork, shoemaking and sewing workshops, they worked work crews of war prisoners. The camp was cleaned by a special command several times a day. In the camps for Western war prisoners there was a greenhouse, where prisoners grew a variety of vegetables.

Western prisoners had the right to correspond with their families; they are constantly received from the Red Cross food rations. American war prisoners remembered that in the war prisoners camp of pilots they received daily 230 grams of bread, 0.5 kg of boiled potatoes, 15 g margarine, 20 g of horsemeat, 20 g marmalade or jam, 2 coffee mugs (they call them "disgusting coffee leaf "). A diet for Western prisoners was 1500 - 1900 calories a day for normal needs at least 3000 calories. However, during the war, the German agriculture could not provide full adequate nutrition even its population, for each adult German daily diet was 2445 calories (Andreyeva, 1990: 31-32). Therefore, the Western states supported their prisoners, allocating large sums to buy the Red Cross food, clothing and other goods, the Red Cross brought them into the German camp and partitioned among of Western war prisoners. The war prisoners of all countries except the Soviet, received parcels from relatives, a permissible norm of one parcel was 2 kg. Even in the camps, where they were kept

Czechs and Poles were allowed to receive one parcel per month. Jews and Soviet war prisoners did not received a parcel. Soviet war prisoners did not always receive meager camp food, consisting of 200 grams of bread, jam spoons, rutabaga soup and ersatz coffee (Eigene Propaganda: 21-22).

In autumn-winter 1941-1942 the mortality rate among Soviet war prisoners in German camps was very high. So, in camps in General governorship (western territory of former Poland) of the 361,000 war prisoners 1941 54,000 died on October 20. In most camps people suffered from typhoid and dysentery.

On the appalling situation Soviet war prisoners of noticed even heads of government agencies. Imperial Minister of the Occupied Eastern Territories A. Rosenberg in his letter to Keitel on February 28, 1942 wrote: "The fate of Soviet prisoners of war in Germany, by contrast, is a great tragedy. Most of them died of starvation or were killed in the harsh climatic conditions. Thousands also died from typhus fever. Camp commanders have banned the civilian population to transfer to prisoners food, they prefer to doom them to death by starvation. In many cases, when prisoners could no longer walk from hunger and exhaustion, they were shot on eyes the population, and their bodies were not taken. In many camps, the prisoners do not provide any home; they lay in the open air in rain and snowfall. They did not even receive the tools to dig a pit or cave "(Dugas, Cherone, 1994: 178-179). Until the summer of 1944 nutritional norms of Soviet war prisoners were raised to the level of nutritional norms of war in other countries. Western prisoners whenever the opportunity fed Soviet prisoners. Former war prisoners Pakhomov recalls how the British war prisoners secretly helped Soviet prisoners products contained in a tuberculosis hospital of in the camp Tseythayn ((Andreyeva, 1990: 35]. French war prisoners received permission from the German commandant to give Soviet war prisoners of the products of the parcels they received from home in Fallingstbolle camp. In the end of 1944 a food was getting wors in all the camps, the Western war prisoners were living only by providing them with products Red Cross (on money allocated their homeland) and parcels from home, and Soviet war prisoners could not hope for any help from the outside. In August 1941 Ministry of Information and Propaganda of the Third Reich organized a trip to the camp, where there were Soviet war prisoners . The aim of the trip was to introduce representatives of Berlin district "Untermensch in kind, to show what risk makes their Fuhrer and the Wehrmacht". They visited several camps. In Tsaythayme Goebbels visited two barracks where prisoners asked a few

questions. When he asked about whether they are the Bolsheviks, almost all answered "no", and some said, "or we should be Bolsheviks, or not to be." The report describes in detail the questions of Goebbels and answers of war prisoners. Question: "Do they know National Socialism?" - Answer: "Its - Party in Germany," besides, they stated that fascism - it's the devil. Question: "What do you know about Hitler?" - The answer: "He - the successor of the Kaiser." Question: "Why does your government support the Jews?" - The answer is: "The Government supports all nationalities." But the propaganda minister could not achieve the desired result, as the war prisoners were not aggressive. In the end of August, the head of the NSDAP Bormann made a trip to Soviet war prisoners' camp. He was interested in the possibility of demonstrative show of Soviet war prisoners at the meeting of the NSDAP (Besichtigung: 3-8).

Consequently, camps for Soviet war prisoners were a kind of "testing ground", which there were passed the check misanthropic ideology of Nazism.

The Hitlerites are widely used in their propaganda thesis about the betrayal of the Soviet rule of their soldiers in captivity. And this propaganda had some success. Its impact is especially increased the effect of contrast in large Germany Stalags, where the famous Soviet prisoners housed French, Yugoslavs, the British and Americans receiving assistance through the Red Cross and feel relatively well in captivity. The problem of placing prisoners, evacuation to the rear areas, the distribution of camps was generally entrusted to the Land Forces High Command. Prior to an outbreak of hostilities in the east the fundamental rules of war when the content in the areas of fighting and evacuation to the rear were:

- 1) using war prisoners on the frontline as workforce,
- 2) send to the rear only those prisoners who can not be used for the needs of the army;
- 3) immediately separate officers from the rank and file and send to the rear,
- and 4) for evacuation use only empty trucks returning trucks, not to interfere with the movement of units on the roads heading to the forefront;
- 5) resolutely stop any disobedience prisoners, to promote prisoners' studious work adequate nutrition and good security.

However, in the first months from the higher authorities did not receive orders and instructions on using of labor Soviet war prisoners, so there was no need to "promote good nutrition" diligently working prisoners. Therefore, in the first months Soviet war prisoners were doomed to death by starvation. However, decimating Soviet prisoners of war from a position of ideological confrontation, the leadership of Nazi Germany also took into account the possibility of using of labor of war prisoners. In March 28, 1941 at the headquarters meeting of the 9

Army decided to establish from war prisoners already in a war zone building, road construction battalions and battalions connection. However, the leadership of the Wehrmacht was in no hurry to use prisoners in factories and other industries. In June 29, 1941 to all instances of the armed forces in the occupied territory of the USSR was directed disposal of Bids Hitler's using the economy of occupied eastern territories. At the disposal pointed out that G. Goering is responsible for all activities necessary for the best of using proven reserves and production capacity in order to strengthen the economic power of Germany. This order was in some way relevant to war prisoners, as large tasks assigned to the Wehrmacht and the military departments, there were feasible by only if the economy will be able to provide the necessary manpower. In July 8, 1941 the Wehrmacht High Command has prepared a secret instruction on using Soviet war prisoners: they should be involved in work only in the occupied Soviet territory. Using of labor Soviet war prisoners in the occupied territory is carried out: the operational zone - by forming working teams to ensure supply in strongholds, road and bridge construction, facilities for Air Force and Navy, as well as for using the territory for the benefit of troops, in the areas of military subordination - the commanders of war within the Russian economy (industry and agriculture). In the instruction there was permitted using of labor opportunity of Soviet war prisoners on Imperial territory only if they deem it necessary Commissioner for the Four Year Plan and Economic Governance on war Prisoners of he High Command of the Wehrmacht. The "evacuation (shipping to the rear) German-speaking Russian, Jews and Asian races impermissible in Reich» (Streit, 1991: 194). The question of inadmissibility import Asians and German-speaking Russian war prisoners in their own territory of Germany is constantly present in orders and instructions of the Nazi leadership. So, a ban on the import of war-Asians from the Soviet Union within the German Empire and also says in the order of 24 July 1941, these categories of war prisoner in the first year of the war were kept in camps in German-occupied Eastern European countries (Turanismus: 274).

But in the order № 5015/41 of the Supreme Command of the Wehrmacht from August 2, 1941 there is no such categorical prohibition "if necessary to immediately make application for transportation available in captive Asian and German-speaking Soviet prisoners of war from the eastern regions» (Streit, 1991: 385).

OSC directive of July 14, 1941 gave the necessary settings regarding recruitment of the armed forces personnel and equipping them with military equipment. In August 18, 1941 at the meeting with

the Staff Chief of the Wehrmacht Supreme Command in discussing the possibilities executing this directive was again raised the issue of support for military industries workforce. As "the only practically applicable reserve" was named by the French prisoners of war, but in this period they were engaged in agriculture. General Admiral Witzel raised the possibility of involvement of Soviet war prisoners, First, they could work in agriculture instead of French prisoners of war, then it will be possible to transfer the French military enterprises, and secondly, they could replace the Germans in construction battalions in the West. Staff Chief of the Wehrmacht Supreme Command said that the question of using Russian war prisoners must be approached very carefully, as there is a danger of diversions; only after the sifting in a transit camp will be to solve the problem of the possibility using Russian war prisoners in agriculture and bring them to work in construction battalions highly desirable because of the ease of supervision. However, a need of the German economy in the labor force grew by the day. Already in August 1941, the Staff Chief of the High Command reported that the military industry needs additional 2,818,700 workers currently involved in civil and relatively less important military production of 280 000 people. In October 1941, the need for military enterprises, imperial railways, mining and construction labor force is calculated for about 1 million 100 thousand people. These circumstances forced the Nazi leadership to change attitudes towards the Soviet prisoners of war and treat them as a reserve to replenish the workforce. October 31, 1941 Adolf Hitler signed the directive on the widespread use of Soviet prisoners of war in the German economy. It was an end to the prior categorical ban caused fear "contamination" of the German population "disease" of Bolshevism. The decision was compelled in October: there was no doubt that the lightning war did not take place, and veterans will not soon again take up their jobs, the army has lost more than half a million soldiers killed, wounded and missing, and in the future have been even greater losses and a new mobilization.

But Soviet war prisoners survived the winter of 1941-1942. Causes of the high mortality rate among Soviet prisoners of war were large: "Commissar Order", the non-recognition by the Soviet Union international conventions disorder camps, malnutrition and typhus epidemic, using the war prisoners in the heavy work and scientific experiments, mass murder. To hide the fact that the mass death Soviet war prisoners in the camps of Poland the Wehrmacht High Command December 14, 1941 has ordered not to allow the Polish

community to bury corpses, bury them in special places close to camp (Kriegstagebuch).

Soviet military leadership tried to spread the message on the front of the horrors of captivity (of course, many of these reports were true), the NKVD suppressed any words or actions that might suggest the idea of the Red Army's preference for life in captivity suicide, which is widely promoted as heroism. So, in 1941, the o6-Branch Head of the NKVD Special Department of 13th Army after checking the censor letters of the Red Army Division ordered relevant authorities to take active development P. Gusev Red Army, since he "praises the Nazis." In fact, P. Gusev wrote to his relatives: "Some comrades who came with me partially injured, some killed, and most were captured. For example, one company of 2 killed, 2 injured and 47 people captured Germans, they fed them and took them away to work, and did not punish them, as we talk about it »(Allgemeine Akten).

Soviet war prisoners used every opportunity to escape from captivity. In the camps where it was possible they created a group of resistance. Approximately 40,000 Soviet officers and soldiers who had escaped from captivity, become active participants in the resistance movement in Nazi-occupied countries. In part of partisan groups in Poland fought 18,000 Soviet war prisoners, in Yugoslavia - 6 thousand in Italy - 5 thousand in Czechoslovakia and France - three thousand, Belgium - 800. Former Soviet prisoners of war became leaders of anti-fascist groups, commanders of partisan groups. As a result of our investigations it was found that two regiments were created in France from Soviet soldiers who escaped from Nazi captivity.

The main part of the second regiment soldiers (at first it was the first regiment, then it was renamed in the second) were Kazakhs and Georgians.

In September 7, 1941 in the hands of the Finnish troops came text of the 16 August 1941 order number 270 on the application of repressive measures against the families and relatives of Soviet Army servicemen, who was in captivity. On the next day, about this order was already known in Germany. In September 8, 1941 German Information Office printed the contents of this order: "Helsinki, September 7. Order of the Soviet Supreme Defence Council number 270 of 08/16/41 signed by Stalin, Molotov, Voroshilov, Timoshenko Budennogo and fell into the hands of the Finnish subunits. In order sharply condemns an escaping three top Soviet generals who wanted to surrender in captivity. These generals are called like cowards and malignant deserters. In this regard, in the order prescribed that all political workers destroyed deserters and cowards who rip off insignia commanders, shying away from the fight, from the

difficulties and leave the field of battle; they should be treated as traitors, detained and immediately shot. And also with members of their family should be treated as traitors with their families, i.e. immediately arrested. The order indicates further that political workers and subunit commanders must ensure that none of the command structure was removed far beyond the front, not surrendered to the enemy or hiding in crevices. Every soldier, regardless of his rank, was obliged, if the military part is surrounded by calling on their superiors in every way to break through to their subunits. If a boss or groups of Red Army are offering to surrender to the enemy instead of resistance, they must be destroyed immediately by all available means. Division commanders and commissars are obliged immediately to remove them from these battalions, regiments and other service instances or demoted to a member, or if necessary to shoot and replace bold and courageous people from the subcommand or team. Order must be read in all military units like companies, squadrons, batteries and other divisions, teams and staffs »(Büro.: 114).

In this report, a content of the said order is given almost verbatim. Almost a complete coincidence content of this document and the text of the order number 270 shows that in the hands of the Finnish troops got this a real text order of number 270. However, the MKKK representative received an official response at his request from the Soviet Embassy in Ankara, where the Soviet government denied the existence of such an order (Büro.: 275).

Nazis are widely used in their propaganda thesis of Soviet power betrayal of his soldiers who was in captivity. And this propaganda had some success. Its impact is especially increased the contrast effect in large Stalag Germany, where the neighborhood with Soviet prisoners housed French, Yugoslavs, the British and Americans receiving assistance from the Red Cross and feel relatively well in captivity.

German propaganda had some influence on Soviet war prisoners, who even before the war knew about a repression. However, reports of the Germans that the Soviet Government considered all war prisoners were traitors of the country, and that is issued an order for the arrest of their relatives, touched the most painful problem for Soviet prisoners of war. An order of Supreme High Command General Headquarters of the Red Army number 270 of August 16, 1941 is a prime example of the wrongful attitude of Soviet power the Red Army soldiers. The text of the order was published only in the 90s. Soviet soldiers were faced with a dilemma: either to be shot to avoid capture, or live in a German captivities, to go through all this pain, then relive that in Stalin's camps.

3. Discussions

When the war in Europe came to the end, the Soviet leadership bothered a problem of huge number of Soviet citizens who were in foreign countries. Of course, the bulk of the Soviet people, including war prisoners, wanted to return home soon. But a certain part prisoners of war, hearing that the Soviet government enrolled them traitors of the homeland, and also people who were serving in the national armies and legions wanted to stay in the West. Military departments and security agencies had to return all of these people, without exception, regardless of their desire to return or stay. It was impossible to prevent replenishing the ranks emigration criticizing the Soviet system. Repatriation of Soviet war prisoners carried out by different channels. War prisoners, whom liberated allies during the war in Western Europe, were repatriated to the Soviet Union in 1943-1945. War prisoners, whom liberated Western allies in the fighting directly in Germany, transferred to the military authorities of the Soviet occupation zone. The third groups of repatriates were war prisoners liberated by Soviet troops.

In the end of July 1945 there was issued NKVD "On declaring the instructions on the accounting treatment and registration of repatriated Soviet citizens" order. According to this guideline all immigrants, war prisoners of and civilians were treated as enemies of the country.

At the joint authorized SNK for Repatriation and the Red Army rear chief directive from January 18, 1945 repatriates depending on which category they belonged, had to send in cage-transit points, verification-filtration camps or special NKVD camps. Privates and sergeants former war prisoners were sent to the army cage-transit point, after checking they were sent to front-line spare parts. Former war officer prisoners and prisoners, who were serving in military subunits and other divisions got into the NKVD special camp. To place and filter of repatriates in the liberated areas were organized 127 camps and 57 cage-transit points, the total network bandwidth camps and settlements reached 1.5 million people (Polian, 1996: 207).

Special NKVD camps were established during the war based on the decision of the State Defense Committee of 27 December 1941, these camps have been tested and visited prisoners surrounded by soldiers, special departments of the NKVD.

In April 1943, special sections were transferred in the armed forces called "SMERSH" (Death to Spies). In May 1945, two Belorussian and four Ukrainian fronts commanders received a directive on the establishment of special camps to check returnees.

To 10 December 1945 the number of people held in NKVD screening checked-filtration points, reached up to 89 395 people. In the five months from January to May 1945 authorities repatriation in the army gathered in cage-transit points and camps 1,835,377 people, of whom 581,145 - former war prisoners (Zemsky, 1990: 206, 211; Zemskov, 1995: 89-90). The newspaper "Pravda" of October 4, 1945 reported that 5,336,130 people had been repatriated and 4,491,403 people arrived at the place of residence and service, 750 000 people are on the road. However, the reality did not match the central Soviet newspapers reported. M. Heller and A. Nekrich believe that the vast majority of the Western Allies transferred 2,272,000 Soviet and consider the Soviet citizens were accused of treason. 20% of them were sentenced "triplets" to death or 25 years in the camps, 15-20% were sentenced to a term of 5 to 10 years; 10% deported to the most remote places in Siberia, where he stayed for at least 6 years, 15% were directed at reductive the heavy work in the war-torn area; only 15-20% were able to return to their homes, 15-20%, probably destroyed or killed during transport and others were run away. (Heller, Nekrich, 2001:140). In statistical compilation prepared by a authors team led by Colonel-General GF Krivosheev, contains the following information: At the end of the war and after 1,836,562 people returned from captivity to the USSR, for about 1 million people were sent for further service in the Red Army, 600,000 - to work in the industry as part of labor battalions and 339 thousand (including 233.4 thousand former soldiers) as compromised in captivity were sent to the NKVD camps (Russian, 2001: 463-464).

In the end of July 1945 was issued an order of NKVD USSR "On declaring the instructions on the accounting treatment and registration of repatriated Soviet citizens". According to this guideline all immigrants, war prisoners and civilians were treated as enemies of the state. To repatriates who returned to the residence, there was given a special card instead of passport and banned from travel to other areas and regions. All arrived repatriates were put on operative account in the NKVD organs. On operational accounting was raised every repatriate, even in the absence of compromising materials on it. Materials for agency development and further search repatriated compromising data transferred in the local security organs. A new arrest and transfer of repatriate investigating organs followed by materials of agent development. The second wave of repression started against the former repatriates in 1948-1949. Supreme Soviet Presidium Decree on 21 February 1948 "On the direction of especially dangerous state criminals serving the punishment in reference to the

settlement in the remote areas of the USSR". Among them were former war prisoners. Council of Ministers Decree enacted to organize in Kolyma, Norilsk, in the Komi Republic, Karaganda areas and Temnik Mordovskoi ASSR surroundings a special camp for 100,000 people in the total population. In Vladimir, Alexandrivsk and Verkhneuralsk cities were special prisons for 5000 people. All served their sentences in special camps and prisons at the end of his sentence went into exile under the decision of the MGB Special Meeting (Sud'ba, 1996: 100, 102-103). So, Soviet people who survived a German captivity, on their return were in Stalin's camps. They were accused of state treason. In September 17, 1955 was adopted the decree of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium "On amnesty Soviet citizens who had collaborated with the occupiers during the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945." In September 20, 1956 the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium adopted a resolution on the application of this decree to former war prisoners (Sud'ba, 1996: 108-109). This decree was again infringed the rights of former war prisoners: the accusations of "country treason" were just ineligible for amnesty.

Former Soviet war prisoners subjected to persecution who escaped from captivity, and participated in the Resistance Movement in German-occupied Europe countries.

18-year-old boy from Kazakhstan Zh., in one of the battles, was wounded and woke up only in German captivity. After escaping from captivity, he was in the Soviet partisan regiment and participated in the liberation of France. He returned home going through filtration camps. When the second wave of repression against the former war prisoners started in 1948 he was arrested and was convicted under Article 58-1 "B" of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation by Military Tribunal Troops South Ural Military District for a period of 15 years in prison, eight years was in the Karaganda camp. He was rehabilitated by Supreme Soviet Presidium decree of the USSR in 1955. However, they did not return him the documents showing his involvement in the resistance movement in France. In 1993 Zh. began searching for their documents, his correspondence with the various instances of the security organs and the military departments of Kazakhstan and Russia lasted for about 10 years. Only in 2003 they returned letters, photos and other documents attached to the case in 1948 (Semeyniy, 1945-2003).

Soviet people who had been in a German prison for many years were considered suspicious elements, they were excluded from the party, the slightest occasion fired from their jobs, they were not numbered among the participants of War (Protocol 1950).

4. Conclusions

In Western countries, the Soviet Union's allies in the war against Nazi Germany, it was exactly the opposite attitude to the military survivor prisoners. In The United States in November 8, 1985 was instituted war prisoner medal. Medal with the inscription "For meritorious service in captivity" is awarded to U.S. Armed Forces soldiers who were held captive after April 1917, i.e. war prisoners of World War, Second World War, the Korean War, the Vietnam conflict and the Gulf War. Medal is not awarded to one who accused the military tribunal in criminal acts or whose behavior in captivity corresponded the Conduct Code whose actions are considered by the U.S. military authorities to discourage the award of the medal. In such cases, the problem is solved by defense minister. Medal is also awarded posthumously.

Soviet soldiers and officers, who were taken in prison, regardless of its behavior in captivity, despite the successful escape and participate in the partisan movement, accused of country treason. In the minds of the Soviet state leaders, atrophied brutal civil war and impunity for atrocities in the years of terror, there was no concept of honor, dignity and respect for the principles of law and morality. Therefore soldiers who defeated Nazism in his homeland called "traitors", "betrayers" and become social outcasts. This is the law of the existence of a totalitarian society where people are just "screw", it can be replaced with the same "small screw", in this society "no one is irreplaceable," there is only the crowd and the leader, the leader decides everything, and the crowd just should follow him.

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