

Artículo de investigación

**WOMEN'S SERVICE IN THE SOVIET POLICE OF PEOPLE'S
COMMISSARIAT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF RSFSR - USSR
DURING 1917-1945**

СЛУЖБА ЖЕНЩИН В СОВЕТСКОЙ МИЛИЦИИ НКВД РСФСР-СССР В ПЕРИОД 1917-
1945ГГ.
SERVICIO DE MUJERES EN LA MILICIA SOVIÉTICA NKVD RSFSR-URSS EN EL PERÍODO
1917-1945.

Recibido: 1 de abril de 2019. Aceptado: 30 de mayo de 2019

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Abstract

The question connected with the realization of the right of the Soviet women for equal access to public service during formation and development of the Soviet state and society on the example of service in the ranks of the Soviet militia is considered in the article. The period of 1917-1941 of the XX century, in the history of Russia, takes the major place as, during the specified period in the country there were cardinal changes connected with creation of the socialist state and society in which equal access to the administration of the state, participation in the work of bodies of the Soviet power and government was provided to women. The major place in public authorities was taken by the Soviet militia in the ranks of which, throughout the studied period, women always served. It is emphasized that reception of women on services in militia was almost always the compulsory measure designed to liquidate shortage of staff. The Soviet women on an equal basis with men, contributed significantly to protection of public order and fight against crime in years of the Civil war, the New economic policy, an era of collectivization and industrialization, difficult for the country, and also in the period of the Great Patriotic War.

Keywords: women in the Soviet militia, rights and freedoms, Workers' and Peasants' militia,

Аннотация

В статье рассматривается вопрос, связанный с реализацией права советских женщин на равный доступ к государственной службе в период становления и развития советского государства и общества на примере службы в рядах советской милиции. Период 1917-1941 гг. XX века, в истории России, занимает важнейшее место, так как именно, в течение указанного периода в стране произошли кардинальные перемены, связанные с построением социалистического государства и общества, в которых женщинам был предоставлен равный доступ к управлению делами государства, участию в работе органов советской власти и государственного аппарата. Важнейшее место в органах государственной власти занимала советская милиция, в рядах которой, на протяжении исследуемого периода, всегда служили женщины. Подчеркивается, что прием женщин на службы в милицию почти всегда являлся вынужденной мерой, призванной ликвидировать некомплект личного состава. Советские женщины наравне с мужчинами, внесли существенный вклад в охрану общественного порядка и борьбу с преступностью в сложные для страны годы Гражданской войны, Новой экономической политики, эпохи коллективизации и

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People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs of RSFSR, People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs of the USSR, the Civil war, the Great Patriotic War

индустриализации, а также в период Великой Отечественной войны.

Ключевые слова: женщины в советской милиции, права и свободы, рабоче-крестьянская милиция, НКВД РСФСР, НКВД СССР, Гражданская война, Великая Отечественная война.

Resumen

El artículo trata el tema relacionado con la realización del derecho de las mujeres soviéticas a un acceso igualitario al servicio público en el período de formación y desarrollo del estado y la sociedad soviéticos en el ejemplo de servicio en las filas de la policía soviética. El período de 1917-1941. El siglo XX, en la historia de Rusia, ocupa un lugar importante, porque fue durante este período que se produjeron cambios fundamentales en el país, relacionados con la construcción de un estado y una sociedad socialistas, en los que las mujeres tuvieron acceso equitativo a la gestión de los asuntos del estado, participando en el trabajo de los soviéticos. Gobierno y aparato estatal. El lugar más importante en el gobierno fue ocupado por la milicia soviética, en las filas de las cuales, durante el período en estudio, las mujeres siempre sirvieron. Se enfatiza que la admisión de mujeres a los servicios de la milicia fue casi siempre una medida obligatoria, diseñada para eliminar al personal incompleto. Las mujeres soviéticas, junto con los hombres, hicieron una contribución significativa a la protección del orden público y la lucha contra el crimen durante los difíciles años de la Guerra Civil, la Nueva Política Económica, la era de la colectivización y la industrialización, así como durante la Gran Guerra Patriótica.

Palabras claves: Mujeres en la milicia soviética, derechos y libertades, milicia obrera y campesina, Comisariado Popular de Asuntos Internos de la RSFSR, Comisariado Popular de Asuntos Internos de la URSS, la Guerra Civil, la Gran Guerra Patria.

Introduction

The victory of the October Revolution of 1917 in Russia opened a new page in the development of domestic statehood and led to fundamental changes in society, destroying class divisions in society and giving equal rights to all working people, regardless of religion, nationality or gender. Therefore, in the period from 1917 to 1941, many activities of the leadership of the Bolshevik Party and the Soviet government to create a socialist society were aimed at promoting and consolidating the principles of equality in relevant documents; special attention was paid to the place and role of women in socialist society and state. From the first days of the revolution, Soviet and party ideologues called on women to take an active part in the formation and, in consequence, strengthening of the socialist state, including through direct participation in the work of the Soviet authorities and the state apparatus. This implied not only the participation of women in elections to the Soviet government – councils, but also access to work in government bodies, including law enforcement agencies. Soviet militia occupied a special place in the law enforcement system.

Materials and Methods

There is a large number of works devoted to the history of the formation and development of the Soviet militia, in which Russian researchers in some detail and thoroughly described the conceptual aspects of its work; but the place and role of women did not become the subject of a special study. However, even in the works devoted to staffing activities and serving in the Soviet police, issues of recruiting women were not given sufficient attention due to the nature and scope of work. As a rule, in the Soviet period and later in the Russian, the role of women and their participation in the activities of protecting the socialist law and order were covered in publications devoted to the jubilees of the Soviet police. At the present stage of development of historical and historical-legal science, only the following authors M.Yu. Gutman (2002), V.A. Ivanov (2005) studied the recruitment of women to serve in the police in the period 1917-1945 in the context of studying the issues of recruiting the Soviet police.

Therefore, it becomes necessary to disclose this aspect in more detail using comparative legal,

formal legal and dialectical methods. For example, the use of comparative legal method is conditioned by the need to reveal the peculiarities of legal regulation and practice of hiring women to serve in the Soviet police in different periods of formation and development of the Soviet state and law. Dialectical method of research allows from the standpoint of critical analysis to identify patterns of evolution and development of recruitment of Soviet police women, depending on the socio-economic and political situation in the USSR.

Research results

The first years of the formation of Soviet power in the country and the creation of workers' and peasants' militia revealed the problem of chronic shortage of personnel, primarily in lower police posts, junior policemen. Such a situation was caused by low material support, because of which the staff turnover in the police was quite high in many regions of the Soviet Republic. For this reason, women began to be recruited to serve in the police in some regions of the country. The most widespread practice of this kind was in Petrograd, where the leadership of the Petrograd Council in the spring of 1919 decided to take on the service of women, practically, in all police services (patrol and guard, criminal investigation, protection of industrial and state institutions). Given the difficult situation with the acquisition of police in the Petrograd Committee of the Russian Communist Party-Bolsheviks RCP (b) in April 1919, the police leadership proposed to introduce police service in the city for all citizens who had the right to vote, both men and women (Gutman, 2002).

May 2, 1919 in Petrograd, it was decided to create a "female police." It is necessary to emphasize that this term envisaged only features of the recruitment of the police, and not the direction of its activities, such as, for example, the railway, industrial, water militia. When forming the female militia, first of all, attention was paid not only to literacy and the corresponding state of health, but also, first of all, to social origin (workers) and availability of recommendations of party organizations of enterprises. After training in a three-week course, all women were sent to serve in the relevant territorial police units.

When the industrial militia was formed in the country in the summer of 1920, almost all the women militiamen of Petrograd were gathered into one guard detachment, which was charged with protecting the Putilov factory and three

forced labor camps located within the city (Gutman, 2002). In addition, the so-called. The "women's sections" who carried out political and educational work in their own environment and took an active part in the public life of their unit were organized in all units of the Petrograd police. In total, women replaced almost 1,500 police posts during 1919-20 in the Petrograd police station. Women as part of the combined combat detachments of the Petrograd police actively participated in the conduct of all activities: searches, raids, detentions, escorts, etc.

However, at the end of the Civil War, almost all women were dismissed from the police after the prescribed period of service. It is necessary to clarify that a significant number of women recruited to serve in the police of Petrograd are explained by the fact that the summer of 1919 was a period of struggle for the cradle of revolution-Petrograd; practically all the forces and means at the disposal of the Bolsheviks were mobilized to protect the city from the white general Yudenich's troops. Most of the male police officers of Petrograd were sent to the front, which led to the forced decision of the Petrograd authorities on the possibility of recruiting women into the ranks of the Soviet police.

The leadership of the Soviet militia of the NKVD of the RSFSR summarized the experience of using women in the service and suggested adopting it for use throughout Soviet Russia, which was implemented in practice in many provinces and regions of the republic. For example, already in 1919, the Yekaterinburg police began recruiting women for the police; The first 25 applications were filed by women who worked in the women's department of the provincial executive committee. In Yekaterinburg, women, in addition to the protection of industrial enterprises, took an active part in the fight against homelessness. On November 6, 1919, the directorate of the Ufa Province Revolutionary Committee decided to recruit women into the militia (Gabidullin, 2000). In connection with the shortage in 1920, women began to be recruited into the ranks of the Ivanovo-Voznesensk provincial police.

At the same time, it is important to emphasize that the massive involvement in the performance of all police functions was observed only in Petrograd, women in other localities were taken mainly to the industrial police. In addition, the police leadership was very skeptical of such an initiative in many provinces. For example, the decision that women could be of little use working in the militia in the counties was made

as a result of the correspondence of the leadership of the Main Police Department of the NKVD of the RSFSR and the head of the Vladimir provincial police about using Petrograd's experience in mass acceptance of women and opening corresponding training courses for proletarian women. In principle, such a decision was quite reasonable, since the specifics of work in rural areas was that 1-2 policemen were assigned to the area, who had to work, often alone. Therefore, it was not rational to use women police officers in positions in the county police.

By order of November 1, 1920, the Chief Police Department of the NKVD of the RSFSR and subsequent explanations explicitly ordered all women employed in the militia to be sent exclusively to industrial militia units, for the protection of industrial facilities, to conduct personal searches of factory workers and factories products, tools or materials, and also be used only in cities for conducting searches of women, fighting prostitution, homelessness among children, and protecting children's shelters. For example, as of January 1921, there were only 40 employees of women from 1144 militiamen in the structure of the industrial militia of the Vladimir province.

By the end of 1920, a total of 20,700 women police officers were in the service of the militia of the RSFSR. As noted in the Petrograd newspaper "Krasnaya Gazeta", "... women police officers jealously fulfill all the duties assigned to them They even have a positive effect on male policemen by their example"; a similar assessment of the work of women was given in the Ivanovo newspaper "Workers 'Edge".

Thus, during the civil war, the leadership of the NKVD of the RSFSR was forced to hire women to serve in the militia, and women always served in good faith and accurately, thereby contributing to the establishment and strengthening of the Soviet state in Russia.

At the end of the civil war, it can be assumed that a regulatory act or departmental order to stop accepting women into the ranks of the Soviet police was not issued, but the overall reduction of the police, carried out in 1921-22, suggests that the elimination of railway, water and industrial militia, as well as the reduction of the general (county-urban) entailed the dismissal from the ranks of the militia, first of all, female employees.

The period of the early 20s was characterized by the implementation of the New Economic Policy, as a result of which there was mass unemployment in the country and there were no problems with manning the police with men, and despite staff turnover, there were enough people willing to join the service. However, with the development of the departmental police system, which was entrusted with the protection of enterprises and state institutions, the question arose again about the possibility of attracting women into the ranks of the departmental police, which was secured by the relevant order of the Central Directorate of the NKVD. The number of women in the ranks of the departmental militia is not possible to establish accurately. However, based on the experience of attracting women into the ranks of the industrial police during the period 1919-1921, it is possible to assert that the female police officers also served, as there were a sufficient number of women in the ranks of the departmental police responsible for protecting the plants and factories.

Certainly, the recruitment of women was largely dictated by the characteristics of production and the presence of women workers in enterprises. Considering that according to the Statute on the Departmental Militia of 1924, the police carried only the guard service, providing access control, in order to prevent unauthorized removal of products, tools or materials from production, men were given the right to conduct a personal search, then in respect of women workers, such actions could only be performed by female police officers. Therefore, during the second half of the 20s, women were taken to serve in the departmental militia units. However, the recruitment of women into departmental militia units was carried out on the initiative of local police leaders without instructions from the leadership of the NKVD of the RSFSR. Although women were taken to other positions in other republics of the USSR. For example, women were actively accepted as sanitary wardens in the police system of the Azerbaijan USSR in the mid-1920s.

However, in the period 1928-29, the problem with the acquisition of police bodies became aggravated due to the "cleansing" in its ranks. Again, the question arose about the completion of police personnel. According to the decision of the Party and the government issued in circular of the NKVD Central Directorate No. 92 dated June 28, 1928 and in the order dated November 28, 1929, the Chief of Police of the Republic officially were allowed women to serve in the militia, taking into account that the limit of

women employees should not exceed 10% of the staff of the body-subdivision, and the candidates had to go through the basics of military training and wield weapons. For example, during 1928-29, about 200 women were taken to serve in the Ivanovo police as police officers. For example, there were 60 women in the ranks of the departmental militia of Vichuga. Moreover, the veterans of the Ivanovo militia-women noted that women were not put up for nightly single positions as they were being robbed of weapons, violators of public order did not obey them, etc. In addition, women began to be nominated for executive positions, such as M.A. Kameneva was promoted to the post of head of the police department of Rostov-on-Don (Semik, 2003).

The provision on the Soviet workers 'and peasants' militia in 1931 also did not establish any differences between men and women. However, the period of the early 30s was characterized by a decrease in the number of female police officers, which was largely due to the stabilization of the economic situation in the country and the almost liquidation of a number of police officers at all levels of the system. However, the women who entered the service at the end of the 20s continued to remain in the police, many of whom served until the end of the 40s and the beginning of the 50s. For example, N.M. Smirnova, entered the service in the police as a policeman in 1929, she later held the position of district police department of the city of Vladimir. In the certification of February 1, 1931, when she was appointed to the post of the district police officer, it was stated that "... she understands the political situation, she works on herself ... a normal way of life in personal life, ... She has no connection with alien elements, she is energetic, decisive, quick-witted treats work in good faith ... can orient herself in the work environment at work, has initiative. " The certification for the assignment of a special rank of July 26, 1940 noted that Smirnova copes well with the work of the district police officer, and knows the operational investigative work very well" (Vladimirskaya Militia ..., 2002). P. Onushonok had experience in law enforcement - from 1918 worked in the All-Russia Emergency Commission to combat counterrevolution and sabotage. She was appointed to the post of chief of the Kingisepp district militia of the Leningrad province, and was transferred to the post of chief of 11 police station of Leningrad in 1929, where the department has achieved significant success in the fight against crime and the protection of public order for the entire period of its leadership.

In many ways, the recruitment of women depended on the national republics or geographical features. For example, according to the militia of the Chuvash ASSR in the period of 20-30, women mostly replaced the following positions as clerks, clerks, cleaners, couriers, secretaries, passports, etc., only in two districts of the republic, women held junior state and departmental militia positions in 1932 (Ivanov, 2014).

In the militia of the Mari ASSR in the period from 1931 to 1933, the percentage of women working in the militia did not exceed 5% (eighteen) in 1932. Moreover, Ivanov emphasizes that a low percentage of indigenous women is explained both by "the peculiarities of the national psychology of Mari women, who are not very inclined towards management activities and who prefer traditional farming and household chores" (Ivanov, 2005), and a low educational level and lack of knowledge of the Russian language.

At the same time, women's access to services in the police was not limited. For example, in the fall of 1940, 15 women were enrolled for the first time in the Gorky school of Workers 'and Peasants' Militia (Nizhegorodsky ..., 1997), and the women's team of the Gorky school took third place in city competitions in the relay race cadets.

A.A. Semik writes about 20,000 women who served in the ranks of the workers 'and peasants' militia by 1940 (Semik, 2003). However, in our opinion, this figure needs to be clarified, as most likely it is the total number of women occupying any positions in the Soviet police and this number reflected the total number of women working in all positions, without indicating that most of them held support posts in the form of technical workers, clerks, typists, cleaners, etc.

The period of the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945 was a test for the Soviet people. The mass conscription into the Red Army did not bypass the police, whose employees, according to the legislation in force, were supposed to defend the homeland. This led to a huge shortage. Therefore, a sufficiently large number of women served in almost all police units of the country during the war. Life in the conditions of the Great Patriotic War put forward the requirement of attracting women to serve in the police, not only as auxiliary personnel, but also as full-fledged police officers who held all positions of ordinary police officers, criminal investigation officers, district police officers and others.

It is necessary to emphasize that decisions about sending women to work were taken by the relevant party organizations and authorities, in coordination with the relevant UNKVD. Thus, the decision of the meeting of the Rostov city committee of the CPSU (b) "On the selection of personnel for police bodies and units of the NKVD of Rostov-on-Don", adopted in March 1942, suggested that the management of industrial enterprises and Soviet institutions, as well as party organizations of the city, make a selection and send to work non-military men and women, communists, Komsomol members and non-party members, women aged 22 to 45 years old with appropriate education. Not less than 4-5 grades for privates (German, 1999). During the war years, 1,300 women were sent only to the Moscow police by the decision of the Moscow city committee of the CPSU (b) from various government agencies and organizations working in the police. Before the start of the Great Patriotic War, 138 female employees worked in the Moscow police, the number increased to 4,000 during the war. In Stalingrad, during the Great Patriotic War, the total number of women police officers was 20%. By the end of the war, there were 634 women among the certified police personnel in the Gorky police station. In 1944, 300 women were sent to the service for the protection of the Moscow metro. In 1942, there were 42.5% of the total staff of women in various positions in the ranks of the Omsk militia, from heads of departmental departments to police station policemen. In 1944, 144 women were counted in the Novosibirsk militia at the posts of district ombudsmen and ordinary policemen (Shatilov, 2001).

The period of the war led to changes in the contingent of students in police schools. For example, since 1943, only women have been admitted to the Ryazan interregional police school (excluding the special department). The locals called the school "convent", and the "female graduation" of October 1944 numbered 188 women. The first recruitment of women to the Gorky police school was announced in 1942. Even in the conditions of the besieged situation in Leningrad, on November 22, 1943, two-month courses for 40 people who were fully staffed by female police officers were organized in order to prepare the operational staff for the criminal investigation department and the units for combating the embezzlement of socialist property (Salnikov, 1999). A similar situation in many educational institutions persisted until the end of World War II.

Conclusion

Thus, it is necessary to emphasize that the recruitment and use of women in the militia during the periods of the Civil and Great Patriotic wars was carried out not as the realization of the principle of gender equality, but as a forced measure, explained by the incomplete staff and objective necessity to use women in certain positions. In all other time intervals from 1917 to 1945, the presence of women in the police was an exception to the general rule and women were used only in support posts.

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