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THE MOBILIZATION OF THE POPULATION OF SURKHANDARYA TO THE FRONT AND THE VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT IN THE EARLY DAYS OF WORLD WAR II (JUNE–JULY 1941)

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ABSTRACT

This article examines the mobilization of the population of Surkhandarya Region to the front, the emergence of the volunteer movement, and the willingness of representatives of various social groups to participate in the struggle against fascism during the early days of World War II, based on historical sources. Particular attention is paid to rallies organized in the towns and villages of the region following the outbreak of the war, applications submitted to military commissariats, and appeals by men, young people, and women requesting to be sent to the front. The article also explores the growing patriotic sentiment among the population during the first months of the war and the social characteristics of the volunteer movement.

KEYWORDS

World War II, Surkhandarya, front, mobilization, volunteers, military commissariat, patriotism, fascism, military service, women.

Introduction

The invasion of the Soviet Union by Nazi Germany on June 22, 1941, brought about fundamental changes in the country's political, economic, and social life. The outbreak of the war directly affected the population of Surkhandarya Region, just as it did other parts of the Uzbek SSR and the Soviet Union as a whole. As soon as news of the war reached the region, anti-fascist rallies, meetings, and public gatherings were organized in towns and villages. Local residents expressed their willingness to assist the front, increase production efficiency, and, if necessary, take direct part in military operations. During the initial period of the war, military mobilization in Surkhandarya Region developed along several directions. First, citizens liable for military service were called up for the army. Second, many people, without waiting for the official conscription process, voluntarily appealed to military commissariats requesting to be sent to the front. Third, young people and women also began expressing their desire to participate in the war effort.

METHODS

The study employs the principles of historicism, objectivity, systematic analysis, comparative-historical analysis, and the problem-chronological method. Archival documents, contemporary

newspaper materials, scholarly publications, and historical collections relating to the socio-political life of Surkhandarya Region in 1941 were examined and compared.

Particular attention was paid to reports published in the 1941 issues of the newspaper *Ilg‘or Surxon uchun* concerning public rallies, applications submitted by volunteers, and citizens' requests to be sent to the front. Materials from the journal *Ogonyok*, the newspaper *Pravda Vostoka*, a collection of documents on the activities of state security agencies, and the research by Kh. Kholiyorov were also examined.

Statistical data, individual appeals, and reports on public events were analyzed in the context of the historical circumstances of the period. This approach made it possible to investigate the participation of different social groups in the military mobilization process in Surkhandarya during the early period of the war.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

On June 22, 1941, as news of the outbreak of the war reached Surkhandarya Region, mass meetings were organized in various districts and villages. In particular, a large-scale rally involving thousands of collective farm workers was held in the Pattakesar Village Council of Termiz District. The participants adopted an appeal expressing their determination to mobilize all available resources in the struggle against fascism. At the meeting, they declared: “If necessary, we will turn our hoes into rifles and will not allow the dark forces to trample our beautiful vegetable gardens with their filthy snouts” [1].

Similarly, on June 23, 1941, workers of the Khovdak oil field held an anti-fascist rally and adopted a declaration stating: “From this day onward, we consider ourselves mobilized.” Similar rallies were held at the Voroshilov Oil Trust, the Zolotprommat Artel in Termiz, the Termiz Cotton-Cleaning Plant, the Mehnat Rohat collective farm in Jarqo‘rg‘on, Sherobod Machine and Tractor Station (MTS), and village councils in Sho‘rchi District [1].

These meetings and rallies reflected the population's opposition to fascism, its determination to contribute to national defense, and its readiness to combine labor and military activities under wartime conditions. In particular, the voluntary appeals of citizens requesting to be sent to the front from the very first days of the war contributed to the expansion of the volunteer movement.

The initial manifestations of the volunteer movement in Surkhandarya were reflected in appeals submitted by representatives of various professions and social groups. For example, Mikhail Sakisovich Dalniyans, an agronomist residing in Termiz, sent a telegram to I.V. Stalin, Chairman of the State Defense Committee, expressing his desire to participate in the struggle against the Nazi invasion. In his appeal, he stated that if permitted to go to the front, he would spare neither his labor nor his life in defense of his homeland [2].

Otay Rahmonov, a tractor driver in the fourth department of the Hazarbog State Farm in Denov District, also submitted an application to the military commissariat requesting to be sent to the front. He emphasized his technical skills and ability to drive vehicles, noting that these qualifications could be useful in military service. He also mentioned that his family members were capable of working and supporting themselves [3].

Similar applications were submitted by Koserev, Kravchuk, and Kichine, members of the Rodina Artel in Termiz, Muhammadiyev from Sherobod, Islomov from Sho‘rchi, and Normurodov from

Jarqo‘rg‘on. These appeals confirm that the desire to undertake military service was widespread among various sections of the population of the region from the earliest days of the war [4].

The participation of young people in the volunteer movement also deserves special attention. Following I.V. Stalin's radio address to the population on July 3, 1941, propaganda activities concerning the nature of the war and its consequences for the country intensified. After listening to the speech, several teenagers, including V. Buryan, Juma Normuhammedov, Mirabdullayev, and Medvedov, who were staying at a pioneer camp in Termiz District, submitted applications requesting to be sent to the front [5].

F. Knyazev, a student at School No. 10 in Termiz, addressed the city military commissariat with a request to be sent to the front. In his application, he expressed his readiness to defend his homeland and his interest in learning to operate tanks. Akanin, a graduate of the K. Marx School, also declared his willingness to defend his homeland to the last drop of blood if accepted into the army [6].

These appeals indicate that patriotic sentiments and military enthusiasm were growing not only among adults but also among schoolchildren during the early period of the war. However, it is important to distinguish between minors expressing their desire to go to the front and their actual recruitment into military service. Therefore, such applications should primarily be regarded as historical evidence of the social and psychological attitudes and patriotic aspirations of young people.

The desire of women to participate in military service also increased during the war. F. Hakimov, a teacher at the school named after the newspaper *Pravda* in Termiz, submitted an application to the city military commissariat requesting admission to the medical service unit of the active army [7]. The names of Tillo Fayziyeva from Sherobod, Vera Vyalochkina, Anna Shumikhina, and A.I. Fomina from Termiz were also recorded in historical accounts relating to women's service at the front during the war.

Women's desire to undertake military service reflected changes in the traditional distribution of social responsibilities under wartime conditions. They contributed to meeting the needs of the front through medical assistance, sanitary services, communications, and other military activities.

According to available records, more than 2,000 applications requesting deployment to the front were submitted to military commissariats across Surkhandarya Region during the initial period of the war. In June–July 1941, approximately 20,000 people from the region reportedly departed for the front as volunteers [8]. These figures demonstrate the extensive scale of mobilization in the region. At the same time, it is necessary to distinguish between the number of applications submitted and the number of individuals actually sent to the front, as these represent different statistical indicators.

Farewell ceremonies for those departing for the front also became an important part of wartime social life. Shomirbobo Mirzayev, a member of the Qizil Chegara collective farm in Termiz District, addressed his son as he was leaving for military service, urging him to fight courageously. He also promised to take his son's place in the collective farm and devote all his strength to strengthening the local economy [9].

This appeal reflects the close relationship between the front and the home front, the role of families in military mobilization, and the subordination of labor activities to national defense requirements. While some family members departed for the battlefield, others undertook their responsibilities in production.

Thus, military mobilization in Surkhandarya Region during June–July 1941 was characterized not only by state-organized measures but also by personal initiatives, the volunteer movement, and public

participation. Applications submitted by men, young people, and women constitute important historical sources for studying the social attitudes of the population during the early period of the war.

CONCLUSION

During June–July 1941, military mobilization and the volunteer movement developed on a large scale in Surkhandarya Region. Following the outbreak of the war, public rallies were organized in Termiz, Denov, Sherobod, Sho‘rchi, and Jarqo‘rg‘on districts, where residents adopted resolutions expressing their determination to fight fascism and contribute to national defense.

Among those expressing their willingness to go to the front were agronomists, tractor drivers, artel workers, schoolchildren, and women. Their applications to military commissariats and appeals to the state leadership demonstrate the broad social composition of the volunteer movement.

The applications submitted during the first months of the war and the voluntary enlistment of citizens reflected not only patriotic sentiment but also the sense of responsibility assumed by different sections of society under wartime conditions.

Military mobilization in Surkhandarya was closely connected with the relationship between the front and the home front. The replacement of departing servicemen by their family members and colleagues in production laid the foundation for the subsequent reorganization of the region's economic life.

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