

Liliiia TSYGANENKO*

**REPRESSIONS AGAINST THE ROMANIAN PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN
BESSARABIA IN THE FIRST YEAR OF THE SOVIET POWER
(JUNE 1940 – JUNE 1941)**

- Abstract -

The issues of the repressive policy of the Soviet power, in the first year of its establishment on the territory of Southern Bessarabia, towards different representatives of the ethnic groups is here considered. Special attention is given to the analysis of the situation of the representatives of the Romanian nationality, who entered the top three of the most affected regional ethnic groups. Based on previously unknown sources, an attempt of a real assessment of the magnitude of the crimes done by Stalinism towards the Romanian people of Southern Bessarabia was made. The age, profession and place of residence, the most frequently used prosecution methods and prison terms for the so-called “public enemies” are also analyzed. With concrete examples, the falsity of the Soviet punitive system, the absence of real rights and freedom guarantees for the people of the country are shown.

Keywords: Romanian people; Southern Bessarabia; Soviet power; repressions; deportations; NKVD.

Introduction

The destruction of the totalitarian regime and the establishment of a democratic system is an important but very painful process of the formation of society. It is a period of reconsideration of its history, learning from the past, desire to avoid previous mistakes and crimes in future. It’s hard to disagree with the researcher V. Rulinskiy, who stated that “in Russia, an adequate historical assessment of the destruction of innocent lives, repressions against social classes and

* Izmail State University of Humanities, Ukraine (liliatsyganenko@gmail.com), ORCID:0000-0002-5014-9845; Researcher ID: A-8350-2018; Scopus Author ID: 57203764278.

nations, all crimes of the Bolshevik regime, couldn't have been done for years".¹ The dissolution of the USSR, the liberalization and democratization of the modern Ukrainian independent state made it possible to assess the Soviet past objectively. Since the 90s, the researchers have started to study openly the issues connected with the atrocities of the Soviet totalitarian regime. Significant experience was gained and many secrets were revealed; however many moments are out of historians' attention.

The Problem Statement

In the lead-up to the Second World War, the Soviet government has already had significant "experience" in holding mass punitive operations, where the representatives of different nationalities and denominations had become victims. Ukrainians, Romanians, Jews, Germans, Russians, Poles, Belarusians, etc. got into the bloodshed of the totalitarian regime. For the majority, "the acquaintance" with NKVD finished in a tragedy – arrests and prison sentences, confiscation of property and deportation, dispatch to "the labor front" in Siberia, Central Asia. Many of those who had been repressed didn't return home alive. Modern Ukraine gave the task to the society to tell the names of all illegally repressed. We must perpetuate the memory of our contemporaries who became victims of political repressions, convey this memory to future generations and exclude the possibility of a recurrence of the horrors of the totalitarian regime forever. This task is especially relevant for the border regions, the historical development of which resulted from the frequent changes of governmental identity. These territories also include modern Southern areas of the Odessa region or Ukrainian Danube region, also known under the title of "Southern Bessarabia" or "Budjak". Its inhabitants fully experienced all "the advantages" of Soviet communism, being trapped in the policy of terror, humiliation and extermination.

Research Analyses

The problem of the atrocities committed by the Communist authorities towards the representatives of different peoples gained a strong development after the proclamation of the independence of Ukraine. Having received the access to previously closed NKVD-KGB archives, the Ukrainian historians wrote a large number of articles and monographs. And if, at a state-wide level, the number of works about the repressions and deportations done by the Communist authorities is

¹ Rulinskiy, V. (2014). "Problema viny" v kontekste preodoleniya totalitarisma: o polze nemetskogo opyta. Trudy po rossievedeniю. *Istoriya i istoricheskaya pamyat*. P.186-208, P. 186.

of hundreds, the regional aspects of this problem still remain insufficiently analyzed. For the first time in national historiography, N. Shityuk undertook a comprehensive study of the mechanism of mass repressions against the population of the South-western region of Ukraine, during the time of Stalinism.² S. Vasilenko focused on the issues of the complex characteristics of the post-war repressions of the totalitarian regime against the Ukrainian people.³ The relations between the Soviet power and the church were analyzed by V. Voynalovich,⁴ N. Mihaylutsa.⁵ O. Bazhan's articles were devoted to the issues of sovietization and terror on the territory of Odessa region⁶. O. Dovbnia made a thorough analysis by exposing the problems of political repressions against different categories of people in Southern Ukraine, between 1918 – 1953⁷. The researches on the repressions against the national minorities became an important aspect of historiography. L. Lyuks⁸, V. Kononenko⁹ studied the persecution of Jews in Ukraine; the tragedy of the Germans were shown in the works of O. Kurabtsev¹⁰; the atrocities of the Communist authorities towards the Poles of Ukraine were covered by S. Makarchuk¹¹.

The territory of Southern Ukraine, especially the lands of the Ukrainian Danube region (Southern Bessarabia), were less “lucky” in respect of research. In 2015, the Odessa based historian, S. Matveeva, published a book, *The Repressions and Expropriation in Bessarabia (1940-1941, 1944-1945, 1948-1952)*, where

² Shityuk, M. (2001). *Masovi represii na pivdni URSS v 20-ti – na pochatku 50-h rokov*. Dr. hist. sci. diss. Abstr. Kyiv, 36 p.

³ Vasilenko, V. (2011). *Povoienni represii proty naselennia Ukrainy (1944-1953 rr.)*. Cand. hist. sci. diss. Abstr. Zaporozhia, 23 p.

⁴ Voynalovich, V. (2005). *Partiino-derzhavna polityka shchodo religii ta relihiinykh instytutsii v Ukraini 1940-1960: politilohichni dyskurs*. K. : Svitihliad Publ., 741 p.

⁵ Myhailutsa, M. (2004). Zdiisnennia orhanamy DPU – NKVS Ukrainy represii proty Pravoslavnoi tserkvy na Odeshchyni (1920-ti – 1940-vi rr.). *Z arkhiviv VUCHK-GPU-NKVD-KGB*. no. 1/2 (22/23). P. 429-450.

⁶ Bazhan, O. (2012). “Velykyi teror” na Odeshchyni. *Pivdennyi Zakhid*. Odesyka. Issue 14. P. 181-209.

⁷ Dovbnia, O. (2018). Politychni represii na Pivdni Ukrainy (1918-1953 rr.): suchasna vitchyzniana istoriohrafiia. *Scriptorium nostrum*. no. 1(10). P. 10-26.

⁸ Lyuks, L. (1999). Evreyskiy vopros v politike Stalina. *Voprosy istorii*. no. 7. P. 41-59.

⁹ Kononenko, V. (2017). *Yevreiske naselennia Podillia: sotsialno-demohrafichni zminy ta natsionalno-kulturne zhyttia (40-I rr. XX st. – pochatok XXI st.)*. Dr. hist. sci. diss. Vinnytsia, 530 p.

¹⁰ Kurabtsev, O. (2005). Represii proty nimetskoho naselennia v Ukraini v seredyni 40-h – na pochatku 50-h rokov. *Naukovi pratsi: naukovo-metodichniy zhurnal*. Mikolaiv. MDGU im. Petra Mohili Publ. vol. 45. Issue 32. P. 70-75.

¹¹ Makarchuk, S. (2003). Pereselennia poliakov iz zahidnih oblastei Ukraini v Polshchu u 1944-1946 rr. *Ukrainskii istorichniy zhurnal*. no. 3. P. 103-115.

valuable documents and materials allowing "...to return the people with complicated fortune, deserving respect and the deepest gratitude, from nothingness"¹² were presented. As a whole, the issue of an objective assessment of the processes of sovietization of the lands of Southern Bessarabia has yet to be solved by contemporary researches.

The documents that had been chosen by the author from the archives and museums of Odessa, Izmail, Tatarbunaryi, Bolgrad, Reni and others served as the main source for writing this article. Besides, the materials of the commissions on the restoration of the rights of the rehabilitated persons from several areas of the South Odessa region were partly used.

Statement of the basic material

As it is known, on June 28, 1940, Red Army troops entered the territory of Southern Bessarabia. Since the early days, for the local people, the way of life, relations and authorities drastically changed. In the region, the process of reforming continued till December 1940. As a result, a new administrative formation - Izmail region - appeared on the map¹³; significant changes in the economical, financial, communal and political spheres of life took place¹⁴.

Stalinist regime used "the experience of getting love to Soviets" for strengthening the Communist power of the Danube region. Moreover, Communist ideology wasn't popular with local people – "...most people didn't consider the Soviet model of life as the best alternative to the Romanian pre-war regime"¹⁵.

The repressions against local people began from the first days of establishing the Soviet power. A remarkable fact was that any person was exposed to persecution, arrest and repressions, whatever his social status, nationality,

¹² Matveeva, S. (2015). *Repressii i raskulachivanie po Bessarabii (1940-1941, 1944-1945, 1948-1952 gg.)*. Odesa. Atlant Publ. 545 p.

¹³ O perenesenii tsentra Akermanskoy oblasti Ukrainskoy SSR iz gor. Akerman v gor. Izmail I pereimenovanii Akermanskoy oblasti v Izmailskuu oblast. Ukaz prezidiuma Verhovnogo soveta SSSR ot 07.12.1940. *Sbornik zakonov SSSR I ukazov Prezidiuma Verhovnogo Soveta SSSR. 1938 – July 1956*. Ed. by Cand. jur. sci. Mandelshtam Y. I. Moscow. Gosudarstvennoe izdatelstvo yuridicheskoy literatuy Publ. 1956.

¹⁴ See details in: "Pro natsionalizatsiyu bankov, promishlennyh i togovykh predpriyatiy, zheleznodorozhnogo i vodnogo transporta, sredstv svyazi v Bessarabii; Pro natsionalizatsiyu zhilih domov v Akermanskoy I Chernovetskoy oblastyah; Pro natsionalizatsiyu promishlennyh, kommunalnyh predpriyatiy, gostinits, aptek i aptehnyh skladov na territorii Chernovitskoy I Akermanskoy oblastey". Izmailskiy arhiv, coll. R – 470, aids 1, fol. 1, P. 14, 18, 26, 30, 36.

¹⁵ Tsau Igor. *Stalinskiy teror v Sovetskoy Moldavii, 1940-1954 gg.* Available at: <http://dacoromania.net/article/stalinist-terror-soviet-moldavia-1940-1953>

religion, profession were. According to our information (still incomplete, the collection of information is going on), in the Ukrainian Danube region, in the first year of Soviet power (June 1940 – July 1941), almost 1500 people (892 heads of families and 600 other members of the families) were exposed to repressions. The national composition of the repressed was very mixed. Ukrainians, Jews, Romanians, Russians, Bulgarians, Germans, Poles, Moldavians, Greeks, Gagauz, Albanians and others were arrested. In our article, we are emphasizing the analysis of the repressions against the representatives of the Romanian nationality, one of the most affected group of local people.

Out of 892 heads of families, repressed from June 1940 till June 1941 in Southern Bessarabia, 162 people or 20% were men of Romanian descent. The number of the Romanians exposed to arrests, repressions and deportations, amounted to 336 persons, out of which 241 people (71,7%) were men and 95 people (28,3%) – women¹⁶.

The age of the repressed differed a lot – from 71 years to several months of age. The age of 228 people (62,3% of the total number) has been determined. For more detailed information see Table 1.

Table 1
**Age profile of the Romanian population of Southern Bessarabia, repressed
from June 1940 to June 1941**

age	years	number	%%
from 60 to 71 years	1881 - 1870	9	3,9
from 50 to 59 years	1891 - 1882	24	10,5
from 40 to 49 years	1901 - 1892	35	15,3
from 30 to 39 years	1911 - 1902	33	14,5
from 20 to 29 years	1921 - 1912	64	28,1
from 10 to 19 years	1931 - 1922	35	15,3
from 0 to 9 years	1941 - 1932	28	12,2

The table shows that the most affected age group were the Romanians from 20 to 29 years – their number was of about 30% of the total number of the repressed. The number of the representatives of the other age groups varied from 10 to 15%. If we single out children (under the age of 14) from the category from 10 to 19 years, it will be a truly horrifying picture: children (from several months to 14 years, as

¹⁶ All calculations were made by the author, based on archival sources.

members of the repressed families) constituted almost 20% of the deported Romanian population of the region.

Daniil Mashkoutsan's family lived in Izmail, on Kostake Negri Street (now – Gogolya Street). At that moment, he was 71 years old. He was the owner of a large plot of land in the country (120 hectares of vineyard). He ran agribusiness with his two brothers. A part of his relatives lived in Romania. With the establishment of the Communist regime, at the beginning of July 1940, the two Mashkoutsan brothers were arrested and their fate is unknown. Daniil wasn't likely to be arrested due to his age. However, "the sympathy" of the Communists wasn't long. On June 13, 1941, the family was deported, along with his wife, son and daughter-in-law, to Central Asia¹⁷.

In the same group, Dimitriy Karagozha, who was 65 years old at the moment of deportation, went to a special settlement, in Matuk area, Aktyubinsk region (Kazakhstan). His wife (born in 1885), two daughters (born in 1919 and 1921), son Yakov (born in 1912) were repressed with him. Dimitriy Karagozha's grandchildren were 8 and 6 years old at the moment of expulsion¹⁸.

Archival documents give us information about the youngest "enemies of the Soviet power". On June 13, 1941, Viktor Varzarov (at the age of 9 months) and his parents were expelled to Martuk district, Aktyubinsk region (Kazakhstan), as socially dangerous elements¹⁹. Agripina Gutsu, resident of the village Starosele, was 4 months old at the moment of deportation²⁰. Mihail Makarie's daughter – Valentina, who was taken with her mother to Pahta-Aral sovkhov, Chikment region (Kazakhstan), was only 3 months old²¹.

Most of the repressed Romanians were the residents of Danubian cities and villages – 187 people or 55,6%. Before being arrested, the largest number lived in Izmail (126 persons), Reni (31 persons) and Bolgrad (15 persons). Among the villages whose residents were the most repressed and deported, we single out: Kiliya district – the village of Kitay (now the village of Chervonyiy Yar), Drakulya (now the village of Trudove); Reni district – the village of Bolboka (now the village of Kotlovina), Kartal (now the village of Orlovka), Frikatsey (now the village of Limanskoe).

¹⁷ Izmailskiy arhiv, coll. R – 470, aids 1, fol. 1 P. 4, 12.

¹⁸ Matveeva, S. (2015). *Repressii i raskulachivanie po Bessarabii (1940-1941, 1944-1945, 1948-1952 gg.)*. Odesa. Atlant Publ. P. 71.

¹⁹ Ibid. P. 67.

²⁰ Ibid. P. 68.

²¹ Arkhivnyi otdel Izmailskogo gorodskogo soveta, coll. 242-T, aids 3-L, fol. 131, 136.

Among the repressed, we can name some residents of the cities and towns: M. Dokos, A. Dumitru, V. Kartelyanu, A. Kokosh, N. Konstantinesku (Izmail), S. Antina, P. Chernya, M. Kasadzhinov, V. Kirmiziu, F. Kroytoru (Reni), D. Ionesku, D. Ispas, M. Karayvanchi, I. Merlich, F. Muntyanu (Bolgrad). The residents of rural area are: G. Akchibay, K. Apruda, M. Burniani, L. Kozhokaru (the village of Kitay), A. Gareba, I. Grab, I. Zadorino, S. Kramichi (the village of Drakulya), I. Georgiu (the village of Babel), M. Doskalesku, I. Mynya (the village of Kartal), K. Mitish (the village of Bolboka), F. Pelin (Satu-Nou) and many others.

The professions of the representatives of the Romanian population of Southern Bessarabia, trapped by the Soviet punitive campaign, were very varied. Most of them were individual farmers and also representatives of commercial occupations (owners of stores, shops, warehouses, restaurants, drugstores), manufactures, merchants, different employees. There were also teachers, doctors, agronomists, accountants, tailors, longshoremen, messengers, among those arrested during the first year of the Soviet power.

Before being arrested, Mefodiy Nereutsa (born in 1898), lived in the village of Mihaylovka, Sarata region. He was an individual farmer and was arrested on June 26, 1941, because of the prosecution of anti-Soviet agitators. Due to his military action, Mefodiy Nereutsa was transferred to Vologodsky prison. Under article 58-10, he was sentenced to death by fire squad, by a Special conference order, on October 10, 1942. His place of burial is unknown²².

Ivan Shkepu (born in 1920), a native of the village of Erdek-Burno (now the village of Utkonosovka, Izmail district) ,started “a training course for the workers of the cooperatives of indigenous people of liberated Bessarabia”, specialty “planner”, in November, 1940. In the evenings, he worked as an accountant. Shkepu was arrested on December 18, 1940. On June 5, 1941, he was sentenced to 8 years in prison by NKVD Troika Special meeting order, under article 58-10, and transferred to the place of sentence, Siberia. The official reason for arrest was “anti-Soviet agitation”. I. Shkepu was informed about the verdict only in February 1943, in Tomsk prison cell. The lack of justification of the prosecution caused protests from I. Shkepu, that resulted in another trial and a new sentence – 10 years of imprisonment, with disqualification for three years. “I got to know what Gulag is, - I. Shkepu wrote in his application for rehabilitation, - hunger, cold, forced labor and inhuman treatment of the imprisoned by the prison administration. In jail, I had to work on a tree felling, at the construction of a dam with wheelbarrows, at Siberian

²² Matveeva, S. (2015). *Repressii I raskulachivanie po Bessarabii (10940-1941, 1944-1945, 1948-1952 gg.)*. Odesa. Atlant Publ. P. 73.

frost (- 40-50°), in Kolyma and Yakutia underground gold mines, in the permafrost. There I lost my health, faced permanent disability with a diagnosis of lymphocytic leukemia (blood cancer), but miraculously I stayed alive”²³. I. Shkepu spent 11 years and 7 months in prison. Being afraid of NKVD persecutions, I. Shkepu’s parents “had to go to Romania in 1944, since their son had been declared a public enemy”. The house where I. Shkepu and his parents had been living before the arrest was confiscated by the village council. I. Shkepu was rehabilitated in 1971 – “the conviction...was overturned and the trial was closed because of the absence of any crime”²⁴.

Nikoly Paslavliyi (born in 1893), Romanian, a native of the village of Tashlyk (now – the village of Kamenskoe, Artsyz district), lived in Izmail, in a house on Veytoyany Street (now – Pokrovskaya Street), at its corner with Hotinuluy (now – Khotinskaya Street). He was a private practice doctor. “At night, on June 13, 1941, without being charged, our family was woken up and sent to the Asian regions of the country, with no permission to take any property, all their belongings being robbed afterwards” – N. Paslavskiy’s son remembered²⁵.

Ivan Mynya (born in 1893), a native of the village of Kartal (now – the village of Orlovka), a teacher of rural school, was arrested on June 8, 1941, by Reni RO NKVD, on the charge of counter-revolutionary agitation (art. 54-10 p. 2 CC USSR). On August 19, 1942, he was convicted to 10 years of imprisonment and forced labor, by the decision of the Special meeting, at NKVD USSR. Ivan Mynya was rehabilitated on November 30, 1989, according to the conclusion of Odessa region Prosecutor’s office²⁶.

What were these people guilty of, what did the Soviet power indict them for? Punitive authorities had a special “price list” of prepared prosecutions, with legislative penalties and prison sentences. One of the widespread accusation was “exploitation of labor”. This category included peasants – landowners, masters of mills, trade and industrial enterprises (workshops, bakeries, shops, restaurants, etc.). But, as a rule, security officers didn’t stop at the prosecution. Trying to make fabricated cases evident, different “political” accusations went in the course. And here the imagination of NKVD members had a field of operations: people were indicted of being a secret agent, a socially dangerous element, a former member of bourgeois party (sometimes several at once). The most frequently occurring words

²³ Arkhivnyi otdel Izmailskogo gorodskogo soveta, coll. 242-T, aids 3-L, fol. 35, P. 7-16.

²⁴ Arkhivnyi otdel Izmailskogo gorodskogo soveta, coll. 242-T, aids 3-L, fol. 35, P. 20.

²⁵ Arkhivnyi otdel Izmailskogo gorodskogo soveta, coll. 242-T, aids 3-L, fol. 174.

²⁶ Izmailskiy muzey Pridunavya. Certificate no. 116 of Odessa Department of National Security of Ukraine, 29.07.1991.

of prosecution in the documents were “anti-revolutionary, anti-Soviet activity; anti-revolutionary and anti-Soviet agitation; statements against the collectivization and pro-Romanian mood”.

Some of the archival cases are notable in this regard.

F. Trandafilov (born in 1890), a native of Izmail, owner of a two-storied household, that was at the intersection of Queen Mary and A. Kuza streets and consisted of 14 rooms. Until the summer of 1940, a part of the household was used, through renting, by the offices of the Romanian Bank. After the Soviet rule had been established, F. Trandafilov’s house got into “The list of households around the Akerman region that should be nationalized” (the decree of the Council of People’s Commissars of the Soviet Union, №1301, of 5 October 1940)²⁷, and its owners ended up in the street. But that wasn’t enough and, on June 23, 1941, F. Trandafilov was arrested for “holding anti-Soviet agitation”, under article 58-10 p. 2 CC USSR, and was transferred to Vologodsk prison, where he died in May 1942²⁸.

G. Pyntya (born in 1874), a native of Izmail, was arrested on June, 13, 1941. From the certificate of the prosecutor’s office of the Region of Odessa, from 20 January 1992, № 13/716-92: “Citizen Pyntya Georgiy Georgievich... was arrested for political reasons – as he was a white officer during the Civil War, escaped from the Soviet Union to Bessarabia, and, living in Izmail before being arrested, he was a cleric and a member of the Liberal Party. In prison, G. Pyntya died on October 10, 1941. By the order of the prosecutor’s office of the Region of Odessa, from 11 January 1960, the criminal case against him was dropped, resulting in Georgiy Georgievich Pyntya’s rehabilitation”²⁹.

I. Ponesko (born in 1879) a “... native of Izmail, Romanian, owner of a sawmill, non-party, was arrested by UNKVD, in Izmail region, on July 7, 1940, being accused of anti-revolutionary activity (art. 54-13, 54-11 CC USSR). He was sentenced by NKVD USSR Special meeting on June, 5, 1941, to 8 years in labor camp. I. Ponesko was rehabilitated by the order of the Presidency of Odessa Regional Court, on 10 December 1956”³⁰.

People who got in the cells of NKVD were doomed to severe sentences – term (5-10 years) in the so-called penal labor camps, imprisonment or even sent to fire squads. If a person survived and served his term, as a rule, he was not allowed to

²⁷ Izmailskiy arhiv, coll. R – 470, aids 1, fol. 1. P. 23, 47,62.

²⁸ Arkhivnyi otdel Izmailskogo gorodskogo soveta, coll. 242-T, aids 3-L, fol. 219.

²⁹ Arkhivnyi otdel Izmailskogo gorodskogo soveta, coll. 242-T, aids 3-L, fol. 202.

³⁰ Izmailskiy muzey Pridunavya. Certificate no. 116 of Odessa Department of National Security of Ukraine, 29.07.1991, P. 23.

return home and was sent into exile, to special settlements, under the supervision of the police.

The members of the repressed families didn't have a better fate – as a rule, they received the status of “member of the family of a public enemy” and were exposed to deportation. Among the most “popular” destinations where the representatives of the Romanian ethnic group were sent from Southern Bessarabia, were regions such as: Aktubinsk (Kazakhstan), Samarkand (Uzbekistan), Tomsk, Sverdlovsk, Vorkutinsk, Vologodsk, Krasnoyarsk.

Arrests and repressions began in Southern Bessarabia once with the establishment of the Soviet power. In the first day of the Soviet rule in the region – June 28, 1940 – the first arrests took place. Almost all the mouths of July and August of 1940 local people lived in fear – everyday, anybody who could arouse any suspicion to the new Communist power, could have been arrested, according to the in advance compiled lists or to recent denunciations. The arrested were former Romanian police officers, employees of city and rural authorities, teachers, lawyers, notaries and doctors. The owners of houses, who rented rooms, were the next. The first wave of repressions also included shopkeepers, owners of warehouses, mills, commercial facilities at the local bazars, fishermen.

By the end of August and in September, the wave of repressions weakened slightly. If 46 persons were arrested from 28.06.1940 to 23.08.1940, there were only 6 arrests in September. However, it was a temporary quiet, and, in October 1940, the second wave of repressions began. According to our information, in two Autumn months (October and November), 32 representatives of the Romanian ethnic group of the region were arrested. The third wave of repressions took place in Spring – “public enemies” were searched for most fiercely in March-April 1941. However, the most terrifying attack on the population of Southern Bessarabia was in June 1941, when, only on June 13, more than 70 persons were arrested. This wave of repressions was particularly cruel - families were separated by force – women and children were separated from men. They were allowed to take only some personal belongings and a small supply of food. There were no trials or formal accusation – everybody was loaded like cattle in a freight car and were sent to an unknown destination, under the guard of Red Army soldiers. The worst part is that repressions and arrests continued in spite of the outbreak of war. We find the dates of the arrests in the documents – 26 June 1941, 28 June 1941.

The above described events left a deep scar on the destinies of the repressed and deported people. The label “public enemy” or “public enemy's relative” cost career, well-being and life for many of them. As one of the numerous examples, we

can give an extract from the application of a Romanian citizen, V. Perchaka, to the General Prosecutor of the USSR, dated on 26 April 1991. From the application, we got to know that, in June 1941, the two-year-old V. Perchak and his grandmother were deported to Southern Kazakhstan. At that time, his parents lived in Romania (they were students). Only in 1953, after his return from the exile, V. Pechak managed to reunite with his parents. On his return to Romania, V. Perchak finished a pedagogical school and two higher education institutions. “But never in my life I could get any good job, as «I had been in USSR». This label followed me the rest of my life... What was my life spoiled for? Who is to blame?”³¹

Conclusions

In conclusion, the review of the dramatic events from June 1940 – June 1941, in the Ukrainian Danube region, allow us to state that arrests, repressions and deportations were some of the methods of frightening local people, used by the Soviet authorities. During the first year of sovietization of the region, the repressions had a mass character, that resulted in terrible consequences for the economical, political and social life of the region. Ethnically, the representatives of all nationalities were at risk, though some of them were specially targeted; the representatives of the Romanian population were among them. A significant decrease of the number of people, forced relocation of a part of the residents to the most remote and in fact unsuited to life regions of the country, mutilated fates and thousands of lost lives of our compatriots – this is still not a complete list of the realities of the policy of sovietization in the Danube region. To respect the memory of the victims and of the people with broken lives, we need further thorough research of the atrocities committed by Communists on Ukrainian lands.

Bibliography

- Arkhivnyi otdel Izmailskogo gorodskogo soveta, coll. 242-T, aids 3-L, fol. 35.
- Arkhivnyi otdel Izmailskogo gorodskogo soveta, coll. 242-T, aids 3-L, fol. 131.
- Arkhivnyi otdel Izmailskogo gorodskogo soveta, coll. 242-T, aids 3-L, fol. 136.
- Arkhivnyi otdel Izmailskogo gorodskogo soveta, coll. 242-T, aids 3-L, fol. 166.
- Arkhivnyi otdel Izmailskogo gorodskogo soveta, coll. 242-T, aids 3-L, fol. 174.
- Arkhivnyi otdel Izmailskogo gorodskogo soveta, coll. 242-T, aids 3-L, fol. 202.
- Arkhivnyi otdel Izmailskogo gorodskogo soveta, coll. 242-T, aids 3-L, fol. 219.

³¹ Arkhivnyi otdel Izmailskogo gorodskogo soveta, coll. 242-T, aids 3-L, fol. 166.

Bazhan, O. (2012). "Velykyi teror" na Odeshchyni. *Pivdennyi Zakhid*. Odesyka. Issue 14. P. 181-209.

Vasylenko, V. (2011). *Povoienni represii proty naselennia Ukrainy (1944-1953 rr.)*. Cand. hist. sci. diss. Abstr. Zaprozhia, 23 p.

Voinalovych, V. (2005). *Partiino-derzhavna polityka shchodo religii ta relihiinyh instytutsii v Ukraini 1940-1960: politilohichnyi dyskurs*. K.: Svitihliad Publ., 741 p.

Dovbnia, O. (2018). Politychni represii na Pivdni Ukrainy (1918-1953 rr.): suchasna vitchyzniana istoriohrafia. *Scriptorium nostrum*. no. 1(10). P. 10-26.

Izmailskiy arhiv, coll. R – 470, aids 1, fol. 1.

Izmailskiy muzey Pridunavya. Certificate no. 116 of Odessa Department of National Security of Ukraine, 29.07.1991.

Kononenko, V. (2017). *Yevreiske naselennia Podillia: sotsialno-demohrafichni zminy ta natsionalno-kulturne zhyttia (40-I rr. XX st. – pochatok XXI st.)*. Dr. hist. sci. diss. Vinnytsia, 530 p.

Kurabtsev, O. (2005). Represii proty nimetskoho naselennia v Ukrainini v seredyni 40-h – na pochatku 50-h rokiv. *Naukovi pratsi: naukovo-metodichnii zhurnal*. Mikolaiv. MDGU im. Petra Mohili Publ. vol. 45. Issue 32. P. 70-75.

Lyuks, L. (1999). Evreyskiy vopros v politike Stalina. *Voprosy istorii*. no. 7. P. 41-59.

Makarchuk, S. (2003). Pereselennia poliakiv iz zahidnih oblastei Ukraini v Polshchu u 1944-1946 rr. *Ukrainskii istorichnii zhurnal*. no. 3. P. 103-115.

Matveeva, S. (2015). *Represii I raskulachivanie po Bessarabii (1940-1941, 1944-1945, 1948-1952 gg.)*. Odesa. Atlant Publ., 545 p.

Myhailutsa, M. (2004). Zdiisnennia orhanamy DPU – NKVS Ukrainy represii proty Pravoslavnoi tserkvy na Odeshchyni (1920-ti – 1940-vi rr.). *Z arkhiviv VUCHK-GPU-NKVD-KGB*. no. 1/2 (22/23). P. 429-450.

O perenesenii tsentra Akermanskoj oblasti Ukrainsoy SSR iz gor. Akerman v gor. Izmail I pereimenovanii Akermanskoj oblasti v Izmailskuu oblast. Ukaz prezidiuma Verhovnogo soveta SSSR ot 07.12.1940. Sbornik zakonov SSSR I ukazov Prezidiuma Verhovnogo Soveta SSSR. 1938 – July 1956. Ed. by Cand. jur. sci. Mandelshtam Y. I. Moscow, Gosudarstvennoe izdatelstvo yuridicheskoy literaty Publ., 1956.

Rulinskiy, V. (2014). "Problema viny" v kontekste preodoleniya totalitarisma: o polze nemetskogo opyta. Trudy po rossievedeniю. *Istoriya I istoricheskaya pamyat.*, P.186-208, P. 186.

Tsau Igor. *Stalinskiy teror v Sovetskoy Moldavii, 1940-1954 gg*. Available at: <http://dacoromania.net/article/stalinist-terror-soviet-moldavia-1940-1953>

Shytiuk, M. (2001). *Masovi represii na pivdni URSSR v 20-ti – na pochatku 50-h rokiv*. Dr. hist. sci. diss. Abstr. Kyiv, 36 p.