

Traces of Prisoners of War of the First World War in Chimion (Uzbekistan)



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ABSTRACT: The article deals with the history and fate of the Austro-Hungarian and German prisoners of war of the First World War in Chimion.

KEY WORDS: county, military camp, "Chimion", oil field, prisoner of war specialists, "Santo", "Winkler Koch", "Foster", the council of workers' deputies;

INTRODUCTION

We leave Fergana along the highway leading to the south, to the Alay ridges towering over the horizon. We pass the villages of Yangiabad, Novkent, cross the Lyagan Canal and approach Vuadil. This is a large village stretching along the banks of the turbulent mountain river Shakhimardan-sai. Its water has an unusual grayish-white color

Nearby, there are rocky mountain spurs, against which the houses and gardens of the village look especially picturesque. The proximity of the lake mountain massif, such as Alai, is felt here in the special transparency and freshness of the air, in the coolness of which the rapid flow of the river carries with it.

From Vuadil, we head northwest, following the road that goes through the villages of Mindon and Chimion.

On the outskirts of Chimion, in the green valley of a small river, there are the bright buildings of the largest sanatorium in Uzbekistan. Here, on the basis of local sources of healing mineral water, which is not inferior in its properties to the famous "Matsesta", diseases of the organs of movement are treated. Every year more than 50 thousand people who come here from different cities and regions of Uzbekistan improve their health here.

MAIN PART

The road crosses a hilly hill and then descends to a winding river valley. After a while we can turn onto the road that rises along the foothill adyrs, from here the oil fields "Chimion", "Santo" begin.

The history of the Santo oil field dates back to the 70s of the XIX century. The local population then used oil for a kerosene lamp as fuel, after which the railway engineer R.A. Kovalevsky began using it as oil. Then he sold the oil field to Nobel. The first oil refinery was built in Altyaryk 20 kilometers from Chimion (Vannovskoe).

At the Santo oil field in Chimion, after the arrival of prisoners of war of the Austro-Hungarian and German armies in 1914, in order to further increase oil production, measures were taken to eliminate the backlog of geological exploration and drilling work, to widely introduce new equipment at large oil fields, automation, and mechanization of oil production processes.

As a result of the use of specialists - prisoners of war, oil production increased, consumption decreased, equipment wear decreased, and well maintenance and repair costs decreased. In total, the number of prisoners of war at the Santo oil field - Germans, Poles, Austrians, Czechs, Yugoslavs, Romanians and others - ranged from 400 to 1000 people.

The archival funds contain documents that during the First World War the Santo oil field achieved significant success, especially with the use of the Winkler Koch and Foster installations.

The first oil refinery was built in Turkestan, the Chimion Joint Stock Company was organized.

According to Valentina Egorovna Belkova (born in 1930, lives in Chimion, worked as a school teacher), Tolibjon Urinboeva (labor veteran, honorary geologist, worked in oil exploration, lives in Chimion), according to the stories of older generations, prisoners of war built 19 buildings in Chimion barracks, 11 of them made of baked bricks, in which the heads of the oil field and

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the workers themselves lived. These houses have survived to this day, in good condition, people live in them and do not complain, warm in winter, cool in summer. There is still a European bath, beautiful, probably, there is no such bath anywhere, because it was built by prisoners of war of the First World War (the author's record from the words of eyewitnesses).

The Chimion oil field "Santo" during the First World War and the Civil War was of strategic importance, therefore both the tsarist and the new government wanted to use the products of the field. It is surprising that the new government attracted specialists - prisoners of war to work, there were more than a thousand of them in "Santo". The prisoners of war became the core of the workers, and began to actively participate in the public life of the industry. The archival fund contains a letter to the Regional Council of Workers' and Soldiers' Deputies from the Council of Workers' Deputies of the Santo oil field dated April 11, 1917 on the support of the prisoners of war-specialists "Santo". Here is the letter in full.

Comrades

We appeal to you with a request to express your fundamental opinion on an issue of great importance, both personally for our Council, and the relationship of workers in many enterprises of the region

The case concerns the expansion of the rights of prisoners of war, in particular, Czechs, Poles, Austrians, Germans, Yugoslavs, Romanians and Slovaks working at the enterprise, recognized as necessary for defense needs.

Recently, our council received a statement from one of the members of our organization, a member of the local group, engineer Khvostovsky, the essence of which boils down to the following: Czechs and general Slavs of war who work selflessly for Russia out of principled considerations, the common good of mankind and the protection of oppressed peoples, should use wider rights, especially since many of them, in order to obtain these rights, leave their jobs in enterprises where they are difficult to replace and volunteer to the front. In order to avoid that this statement does not take on a mass character, it is desirable to equalize the rights of prisoners who give their labor to the defense with those who are fighting in the ranks of the Russian troops. Our Council decided to submit this application for your consideration, giving you, if you find it necessary, to raise this question in Petrograd.

We are quite clearly aware that the present question is very complex and that if it is possible to make some changes in the situation of the prisoners of war, then in any case one should act with extreme caution.

Leaving aside the current regulations, without dwelling on the general position of our prisoners in Germany and Austria, we still have to reckon with the competition in the assumption of labor that prisoners of war make up the Russian workers. Currently, this competition is not sensitive, but in the near future the situation may change.

In addition, it is not easy to establish the division of prisoners into groups according to their political convictions.

In view of the fact that we have already raised this issue and wanting to be able to rely on your opinion, we ask you, comrades, to give us an answer as soon as possible.

Chairman of the Council of Workers' Deputies of Oil Fields "Santo" [1].

The fund contains a personal list, compiled in June 1920, of employees of the Santo oil field, former foreign prisoners of war, who are to be sent home through the Kokand camp, dated June 4, 1920, No. 168

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|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Steirer Martin | 19. Galaychuk Theodor |
| 2. Potochnyak Mikhail | 20. Shanta Shandor |
| 3. Kurka Karl | 21. Doiner Engelber |
| 4. Antonich Dusan | 22. Voshverda Joseph |
| 5. Meshhar Gottlib | 23. Ugly Georg |
| 6. Shimon Joseph | 24. Gimbert Andras |
| 7. Boydi Janos | 25. Gerstl Franz |
| 8. Schwandner Anton | 26. Kovacs Joseph |
| 9. Tsapek Karol | 27. Godson Alons |
| 10. Albert Haber | 28. Morbach Emil |
| 11. Moijish Johann | 29. Sleazak Rudolph |
| 12. Presen Ivan | 30. Rudl Franz |
| 13. Modest Vaclav | 31. Novak Franz |
| 14. Modest Joseph | 32. Belgert August |
| 15. Winnet Dmitry | 33. Likesh Joseph |
| 16. Seeley Stefan | 34. Kemper Otto |
| 17. Masitr Joseph | 35. Mandic Miroslav |
| 18. Guyer Johann | 36. Renkel Andreas |

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|------------------------|------------------------|
| 37. Paushich Andrey | 48. Panzner Joseph |
| 38. Shamel Bati | 49. Bernardi Anton |
| 39. Player Joseph | 50. Wantulok Georg |
| 40. Khrust Pavel | 51. Craft Otto |
| 41. Voinarovich Joseph | 52. Trineistic Franz |
| 42. Estimate Martin | 53. Khlyobukh Franz |
| 43. Schmitt Franz | 54. Spatsirer August |
| 44. Gedyi Forents | 55. Vondrachek Yang |
| 45. Klimesh Joseph | 56. Kocharek Sibastian |
| 46. Popa Ilya | 57. Mangold Georg |
| 47. Kreitz Karl | 58. Boseld Rudolph |

According to this list, we ask the Santo Council to issue a travel mandate to the relevant persons to Kokand
Head of Fisheries "Santo" signature
Clerk signature [2].

In the Ferghana regional archive there is a certificate given to the prisoner of war Boseld Rudolph that he worked and was leaving for his homeland.

CERTIFICATE

The bearer of this BOSELD RUDOLF served in the SANTO fields as a locksmith from October 1919 to June 18, 1920. He resigned from according to the attitude of Plenbezh to be sent home, which is confirmed.

Head of Fisheries "Santo" signature

Clerk signature, seal.

Years, people, time.... At the end of the 60s, several people, former Ferghana residents, gathered in Moscow to collect today's "thoughts" of their comrades related to the memories of our dear city of Fergana.

The purpose of compiling the collection is that comrades (wherever they lived, worked) did not forget the distant years, memories, thereby initiating the creation of a large album (book) dedicated to our youth in Fergana, today and the future.

One of the stories is about the Chimion "Santo" oil field, authored by Elena Geishtar, who at that time lived in Chimion and worked as a doctor in the oil field.

It was in Chimione ...

"I will only write that I remember well the period 1918-1922. at the Santo oil fields in Chimion (Fergana region).

In those years, a working squad was organized at the fields to protect the enterprise and the village adjacent to it. The squad consisted of three platoons, its commander was A.F. Sheegan. My husband Nikolai Dmitrievich Geishtar, chief mining engineer of the field, was appointed commander of one of the squad platoons.

It was 1918 ... The fields were preparing to celebrate the anniversary of VOSR. On November 7, the entire population of the village, vigilantes, Red Guards and residents of adjoining villages gathered in the afternoon for a rally organized on the square, crowds of people of various nationalities - Uzbeks, Persians, Russians, Tatars, Germans, Austrians ... with placards and banners. Everyone is in high spirits, festive.

At 6 o'clock in the evening, an evening concert was to take place at the school. About this time I went to school, when suddenly I heard a loud "Fight!", "Fight!" Schoolchildren who ran up shouted that "they were attacked by the Basmachi". I ran into the apartment of the head of the craft school, Anna Andreevna Shigan, and called her husband.

The shooting intensified. Ducking so as not to get hit by bullets, I ran to my house, on the roof of which my husband was standing. Decisively pushing my mother and me aside, we tried to detain him, exclaiming: "Platoon, come to me", lay down in the ditch and started shooting.

Soon, three more joined him, and they held back the advancing Basmachs, led by Kurbashi Akhundjan, in this area.

The situation was becoming threatening. The Basmachi dismembered the defenders of the fishery into two parts, taking up convenient positions for shelling. The cartridges were running out, and the vigilantes were afraid for the fate of the cartridge box, closed in a secluded place.

Having driven off the attackers, ours opened the cartridges, and my husband invited me to guard the box. I sat down on it and cried bitterly - I was so annoyed that I did not know how to shoot and I could not help the defenders of the trade. Soon

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there was a rumor that Akhundzhan was killed, and my husband killed him. Cheered up, the warriors drove the Basmachs out of their positions and drove them far beyond the village.

The guards united with the Red Guards and began to pursue the enemy. The Basmachian banner was captured, and this feat was also attributed to my husband. The warriors said so. The Berdan bullet extracted from Akhundzhan's body testified that it was Nikolai Dmitrievich who killed him, since those around him were armed with three-rulers.

The valiant youth, who completed the defeat of the enemy, behaved valiantly in battle.

Morning lit up the scene of the six o'clock night battle. The bodies of the Basmachi were scattered everywhere. There were, of course, our killed.

CONCLUSION

A list was taken out of the pocket of the kurbashi's robe, from which we learned that there were 1000 people in his detachment. They were opposed by a squad of 102 people and 40 Red Guards. This did not prevent a handful of brave defenders of the trade, armed with Berdians and revolvers, to defend the trade and save the lives of many residents of the village.

1. February 1968 Elena Geishtar

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