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The Documents of the National Archives of the Republic of Karelia on the History of World War I

Annotation

The National Archives of the Republic of Karelia keep more than 400 funds containing thousands of documents for the period of the World War I. There are the documents of organizations, institutions and enterprises that were situated on the territories of the Olonec gubernia, Archangelsk gubernia (Kem' uezd) and Vyborg gubernia of the Grand Duchy of Finland (Sortavala, Kurkijoki and Salmi uezds). The documents contain information on the progression of mobilization (mobilization station logistics, physical evaluation, etc.), data on the war participants. The National Archives of the Republic of Karelia hold documents of personal origin, for example, memories, letters from the army and prisoner of war camps, letters to prisoners of war from their relatives. Many of the documents focus on the impact of war on economy, culture, social and political life of the region. They throw light on factories' work for the needs of the front, on the war-time changes occurred in the labour force structure and in the living conditions of the population (locals, seasonal workers, foreign workers, refugees, prisoners of war), on social aid to the war participants' families, on the spy hysteria, etc. In the National Archives of the Republic of Karelia there's also a collection of documentary photographs of the period of the World War I. Of particular interest are the photographs of the 7th Railway Construction Battalion on the construction site of the Murmansk railway (1916). The article gives an account of documents concerning the World War I deposited in the National Archives of the Republic of Karelia to introduce them for scientific use.

