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Acts of Bravery of the Archivists of Kuban during the Great Patriotic War, 1941–1945

Abstract

The documents evacuation from the Krasnodar Krai to the town Chelkar in the years of the Great Patriotic War, the operations of the archive during the evacuation, documents safeguarding, living conditions in the reception are issues demanding a scrupulous study. Unfortunately, this issue did not arouse much interest both in the post-war and modern scholarship. The article reconstructs the sequence of events of the far off wartime and reports the difficult working conditions of the Kuban archivists and their great contribution to saving the archival documents. The author hopes that reviewing the events of war would provide an example to the current generation of archivists. In the years of the Great Patriotic War the documents of the State Archive of the Krasnodar Krai were evacuated to the town Chelkar, Aqtobe Oblast, Kazakhstan. Evacuation from Krasnodar to Chelkar involved many dangers and difficulties; bombings, often reloading of heavy bundles and boxes with papers in trains, trucks and waggons proved a serious trial, not everyone was equal to it. Some gave up and left, but the archivists that stayed made the best of the job. All work on safekeeping the archival fonds of Kuban was done by women-archivists, who saved the documents in most extreme conditions. When Kuban had been liberated, 14 wagonfuls of documents returned to Krasnodar from evacuation.

Written by S.G. Temirov

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Keywords

The State Archive of the Krasnodar Krai, the Archives Department of the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs (NKVD) for the Krasnodar Krai, Chelkar, evacuation of documents, re-evacuation of documents, A.G. Ivanova, E.A. Kuznetsova, A.S. Azarenkova, Kuban archivists, unprocessed documents.

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