

POLOTSK IN THE YEARS OF NAZI OCCUPATION

The article for the first time touches upon the questions of functioning and life support in Polotsk under Nazi occupation in 1941–1944. The research is based upon broad coverage of archival documents from the National Archive of Republic of Belarus, the State archive of Vitebsk region and Polotsk District state archive. The questions of organization and activity of local autonomous bodies are examined; plant facilities and public service in the town are characterized. The trading system and authority's policy major points in supplying the citizens with food and taxation problems are given attention to. Culture, education and religion matters, the latter used by the Nazi mostly as publicity media, are important as well.

Key words: Polotsk, Nazi Occupation, local autonomous bodies, plant facilities, public service, trading system.

JEL codes: N00; N44

Introduction

The Nazi occupation research in Polotsk is found difficult to some extent because of the lack of data. No local autonomous bodies (district, region and town councils) functioning in the town in 1941–1944 documents are found. They would have given us the possibility to have a clear view of the taken decisions and their further implementation. Though, the availability of the existing archival data that can be found in the National archive of the Republic of Belarus (NARB), the State archive of Vitebsk region (SAVR) and District state archive (DSA) in Polotsk is sufficient enough to reconstruct the events of 1941–1944. The majority of the data are documents concerning reconnaissance data of the partisan formations located around Polotsk and also the reports of the Nazi group "B" (Einsatzgruppe "B"). Besides, the eyewitnesses' reminiscences who worked directly in the local bodies are used.

The main body

At the end of 1920 and at the beginning of the 1930 it was planned to build the system of fortified sectors (FS), one of which was Polotsk FS. After September events of 1939 the territory of Western Belarus was included into BSSR. And because of this event Polotsk FS was laid up. Though, Polotsk FS mattered significantly during Wehrmacht offensive at the initial stage of military operations 1941. In the German documents particularly in the war diary of 26th infantry division on the pages devoted to the attack (11.7–18.7.41) the town was called "fortress" (Novikay 2015, pp.181–182). Polotsk defense was carried out by the military units of 22d Army of Western front from 27th June to 16th July 1941 [Memory 2002, p. 362], and the regional center Vitebsk was already occupied by German military units 9th July 1941.

According to the commander's in the rear of the army group "Center" order M. fon Shenkendorf about placing the territory under the authority of civil administration 23d August 1941 Polotsk became a frontier town against the reichcommissariat "Ostland" and it formed a part of the rear zone of the army group "Center" (Novikay 2015, p. 352).

It is important to know that Polotsk was situated actually at the junction of several zones in the years of Nazi occupation: according to the administrative-territorial system it was in the rear zone of the army group "Center" under control of M. fon Shenkendorf and it was border to civil administration of General military district "Belarus" (*Generalbezirk Weißruthenien*) from September 1941, and from 1942 two partisan zones: Polotsk-Lepel and Rosson-Osveya were made up in the south and in the north of the country. Naturally, the existing position influenced the mood and the state of the people living there. Now and again it was reported in the police and safety chief's and CD's messages that "in spite of favourable military

conditions in the front group rear, general situation and the population mood are in the first place determined by the partisans' activities" (NARB F. 1440. L. 3. F. 952. l. 109.).

The organizational structure of autonomous bodies

In the rear area of the army group "Center", directly adjacent to the theater of operations, all power was concentrated in the hands of the military command. The General M. von Schenkendorf (Maximilian von Schenkendorf) headed the administration of the commander of the rear army group "Center". Therefore, to control the occupied territories until a decision on their administrative jurisdiction of the Wehrmacht was accepted, the military management authorities were organized – field (*Feldkommandanturen*) and local (*Ortskommandanturen*) commandant's offices with military and administrative functions. Polotsk was not an exception, where at different time 749 (1941–1942) and 815 (July 1942 – January 1943) field, 1/335 (1942–1943) and 930 (1944) local commandant's offices were stationed. The German field police (field gendarmery) was in action together with them. The local commandant's offices of Drissa (now town Verkhnedvinsk), Osveya, Rossony, Shumilino and Vetrino were placed under the commandant of Polotsk field commandant's office (NARB. F. 1450. L. 1. F. 20). The order and security ensuring in occupied territories was the main purpose of the German military commandant's offices along with the local national police. In addition, at the time of September 1, 1941 403-I security division was located in the city with the purpose of maintaining order (Novikay 2015, p. 352).

Field and local commandant's offices in the centers, which great strategic importance was attached to, in particular Polotsk, had approximately the same structure, consisting of several departments: an office, an economic group, a housing department, a medical inspectorate and a field gendarmery – a total staff of 45–50 people with 3–4 officers. Polotsk military commander was Colonel von Nikisch.

The commandant's offices subordinated the subsidiary bodies of the local administration – regional, district, municipal, town council and the communities (villages). In Polotsk the district, then region and city boards (councils) were operated during the period 1941–1944.

The largest among the local subsidiary administrations were district boards. The first of them appeared in the General Okrug "Belarus". In late 1942, in the rear area of army group "Centre" district boards were set up "in order to establish regularity and uniformity in the management of Russian civil affairs and interrelations between Russian authorities and the German command". They united under their leadership several districts. According to A. Belyayev the first attempts to create district councils were in the late summer of 1941, Vitebsk regional administration as an example. He makes the assumption that district councils (boards) functioned in the districts where the German field commandant's offices were situated (Belyayev 2010, pp. 116–117). Most likely Polotsk was not an exception. From the autumn of 1941 there was the so-called uyezd (district) board, which was headed by Schaefer until January 1943 (SAVR. F. 2825. L. 1. F. 1). The boundaries of district councils were not correlated with the pre-war administrative-territorial units, but they were created according to military and economic needs of the occupying administration. We can assume that Polotsk uyezd board was thus the district (regional) office, under whose jurisdiction were the settlements of the prewar Polotsk district, and Osveya, Drissa (now Verkhnedvinsk) districts, Rossony, Vetrinsky (now Polotsk district), Ushachi, Sirotino (now part of Shumilino district) districts, testified by archival documents for 1942 (NARB.F. 1450. L. 2. F. 1308.). Functions of these offices were mainly monitoring by the district authorities, coordination of their work and implementation control of guidance of the actual German institutions and pumping out food and cattle from sub-districts.

5 September 1942, Polotsk uyezd board was eliminated; its functions were transferred exclusively to the district council (NARB. F. 1450. L. 2. F. 1308. 1. 174), which power was spread only over the pre-war territory of Polotsk district. The reason for this decision, in our opinion, should be explained by the activity of the partisan units and by the formations on the territories previously controlled by the uyezd board partisan zones in Polotsk-Lepel and Rossony -Osveya.

From 1942 to 1944, Polotsk district Council was headed by Bushunov. In his command there was the school inspector (Sofronovich from 1941 to 1942, then Malinovskiy from 1944), the head of the passport office (Nekrasov), the head of the financial department (Laboha in 1943–1944), and the head of the supply department (Erdman) (SAVR. F. 2823. L. 1. L. 1.). Probably there were other departments.

With the increased activity of the partisan units in late 1942 – early 1943, stationed around Polotsk, a lot of mayors of volost councils were in the district council, and naturally they lived in the city with their families. Within a few months they did not leave anywhere, fearing to be killed by partisans at their working places. In this regard, there is no need to speak about the effectiveness of administrative management within the area in 1943 and 1944.

The chief of the district police was Medvedev (from a simple police officer promoted to an officer rank and Hitler's orders, until June 1941 served the sentence in the Soviet camps (NPHCMR. KP – S2774, p. 230)). The director of the Bank was Matetskiy (until the autumn of 1942). The so-called Russian Bank served both the city and the district.

Polotsk town government (council) was organized almost immediately after the occupation of the territory of Polotsk district and Polotsk in July 1941. It was chaired by someone Kichko (up to 22 June 1941, he was a mail employee). As he had a propensity to alcohol, in December 1941 he was replaced by Petrovsky (SAVR. F. 2823. L. 1. F. 1) (a former Director of Foodtrade in Polotsk), who had respect and credibility among the citizens. According to the citizens' memories he assisted the partisans, supplying them with salt and other products, getting the exit documents from the city, he betrayed no one from former employees of the Soviet institutions (NPHCMR. KP – S2774, p. 230). On March 16, 1942, most employees of the council headed by Petrovsky were arrested on suspicion of collaborating with the partisans and the underground. He died in prison (cut the veins by glass) (2, p. 23). In what follows the city council was staffed by individuals who had previously worked in Rossony and Osveya boards and managed to escape after the district centers were occupied by partisan formations (NARB. F. 1450. L. 4. F. 26. p. 90). The change of leadership of local authorities was carried out periodically (1942, 1943) and without the participation of the local police, solely by the Gestapo. The reason in almost all cases was the suspicion of collaboration with the underground movement and partisan formations.

The structure of the city council during 1941–1944 was not changed and consisted of 8–11 units (archival sources in different ways indicate the number of divisions and their names): financial and tax management affairs, the departments of municipal economy, construction, healthcare, church, registration of passports (later subordinated to the city police), industrial, food, cultural-educational, the department of education (NARB. F. 1450. L. 2. F. 45; NARB. F. 1450. L. 4. F. 26).

Despite the established subsidiary bodies of the executive power, many spheres of life were the responsibility of the various structures. For example, the local industry that was in the system of town council, at the same time was subordinate to the *ortskommandantur*, the economic management VICO and the trading company "East". The school and church departments of the city council and separate from the latter the road construction department, which worked not in the district but in the region, were simultaneously and directly under the supervision of *ortskommandantur*, of *feldkommandantur* and even of army headquarters. Town hospitals were subordinate to the chief of the city council and to *ortskommandantur*,

and to senior physician of the garrison, and to the chief of the German military hospital and feldkommandant (Ilyinskiy 2011, p. 55).

Industry

Before the Great Patriotic War Polotsk had 90 industrial enterprises and workshops (total 1 816 people), the largest of which was the bakery, agricultural mechanical workshops, the winery “plodvinzavod”, the industrial complex with 10 shops and workshops, the artel “Red Invalid”, etc. (ZSA in Polotsk. F. 687. L. 1. F. 1, p. 9).

Although the town suffered from fires and destruction caused by German air force bombing, however, there were a number of businesses that occupation authorities later used to ensure all the necessary needs of themselves and of military forces constantly passing through Polotsk to the East.

So in Polotsk, almost throughout the entire period of Nazi occupation the following companies were working:

1. two bakeries (the first baked bread for the garrison and passing troops – the capacity up to 20 tons per day, the Germans and Ukrainians worked; the second for the population with the capacity of 5 tons) (NARB. F. 1450. L. 1. 17, p. 66);
2. a meat-packing plant, which was surrounded by barbed wire, had a slaughter, a cutting and a processing workshops. The staff consisted of 9 Germans, and 19 Ukrainians-volunteers (stayed round-the-clock), at the head of was the German inspector Thomas. The daily guard squad was 9 people (1 German and 8 police officers). From March to mid-September 1943 the was not working due to the lack of livestock, dealt exclusively with the distribution of finished meat products of the brand “Munich” in the amount of 8–10 tons per month, among the garrisons of Polotsk and Borovugha-1, 2, 3 (NARB. F. 1450. L. 1. F. 917. 194 L. Rev.);
3. a pottery factory produced pots, plates, glasses both for the army and for sale to the local population through German trading company “Vostok” (NARB. F. 1450. L. 4. F. 26, p. 18.);
4. a tailoring and shoemaking workshops – the number of workers reached up to 900 people;
5. a water mill – the only one in the town open all day, and only for the Germans;
6. a sawmill with a capacity of 250 cubic meters of lumber per day;
7. a butter plant and the flax plant – the goods were produced exclusively for the needs of the Wehrmacht;
8. a winery “plodvinzavod” produced alcoholic drinks, wine up to 10 degrees and non-alcoholic syrups if there was sugar at their disposal in a volume of approximately 500 liters per day (6, 69 L.);
9. a bathhouse (two, only one worked), the ground floor of which was equipped for mechanical workshop producing lumps for gas cars. Services for the local population turned out to be only 2–3 per week (NARB. F. 1450. L. 1. F. 17, p. 67), etc.
10. a greenhouse and a greenhouse farming, which supplied the Germans early vegetables, were attached to railway office (NARB. F. 1450. L. 1. F. 17, p. 72).

The day length at the plants was from 10 to 14 hours and in the offices it was of 7.5 hours. The composition of the workers and employees was mostly local residents and prisoners of war. In Polotsk, the number of workers from among local population is not substantial – many at the beginning of the war were able to be evacuated, some moved to a residence in the village. Productivity and efficiency were low, many people worked to have on person an official document. Wages were paid daily, but they were so symbolic – from 15 to 30 rubles (a worker) and from 100 to 250 rubles (an employee) if the value, for example, of butter per pound 350–400 rubles. Hiring of manpower was carried out through

advertisements. As a rule, no one voluntarily went to work, in this case, the occupation authorities called on according to the lists using notices sent through the police. The percentage of production from both voluntarily employed and forcibly attracted was equally insignificant. For example, the restoration of one wooden bridge truss (meters 50–60), the iron one was destroyed by bomb, with the presence of 100–120 workers and a group of German experts, lasted about 9 months and cost 150 thousand rubles. By the way, the bridge was destroyed by ice. The construction was carried out under the guidance of German engineers (NARB. F. 1450. L. 4. F. 26. P. 18.).

Thus, on the basis of the above facts, the occupation authorities were not interested in rebuilding industrial complex of Polotsk. The aim was maximum equipment exploitation at minimal cost. Those businesses that were tied to providing food products of the military units were strictly guarded and controlled directly by the Germans.

Communal services

During the intense bombing of the town by German air force in July 1941, most of Polotsk was destroyed and burned.

However, “...in Polotsk there were 5 pumping stations, put into use in 1927” (NARB. F. 1440. L. 3. F. 949, p. 36), “in Polotsk (16 000 inhabitants) electric power supply is provided by the electric power station at the railway station Polotsk-East. The power plant is powered by diesel motors and today produces 260 kW of electricity, but thanks to the connection of another diesel engine the capacity will be increased up to 280 kW. Due to the lack of fuel, electricity is only supplied at some hours and is used only by small military enterprises, while the population does not get any lighting. Built shortly before the war, a new power plant (600 kW) isn’t currently operating, because it is impossible to get the hardware and motors” (NARB. F. 1440. Op. 3. D. 949. L. 40), “in Polotsk there are 5 pumping stations, three of which run on electricity, but due to the lack of it only 1 station is working. The water network is mostly destroyed” (NARB. F. 1440. L. 3. F. 949, p. 48).

There was also a military communications center with two board switches of the local battery – one switch with 50 numbers, the other with 30. The switches were old Russian, renovated. The power of the station is storage battery, which is charged immediately by the installed unit. All communication in the town is using old Soviet underground cable. The center maintains the connection for all Polotsk garrison, and has a connection with Vitebsk (two wires, along the railway line), with Nevel (one wire along the railway), with Dvinsk (two wires along the railway), with Krulevshchizna and Berlin through Dvinsk. The communication with the front is through Nevel and Vitebsk. After the bombing of the 1st of June the underground cable is damaged. The communication inside the town at the present time is carried out using a suspension cable (NARB. F. 1450. L. 1. F. 17, p. 68.).

However, despite the poor state of public utilities, the occupation authorities forced the local population to pay the rent, which was charged according to Soviet pre-war rate. In order to encourage the appearance at work, the unemployed paid the highest rate. The utilities were free only to the disabled who had Soviet documents on disability, because the medical commissions did not trust.

Trade and supply of the population

In Polotsk, the supply department of town council engaged in the trade and the process of providing the population with food. The other consumer goods shouldn’t be talked about in wartime.

The available stores functioned as points of bread delivery using cards at the rate of 1 kg per week, in 1941 and early 1942 potatoes and milk for infants were given. In spite of these

quotas, weekly rates were not maintained – the bread was not regularly handed and it was of poor quality. On the paper of the supply department another picture was written – 75 grams of cereals, 75 to 100 grams of salt, around 100 grams fat, 250 grams of potatoes (weekly rate) (NARB.F. 1450. L. 4. F. 26, p. 18.).

In mid-September 1942, the commandant of Polotsk was convened a meeting at which the instruction on the procedure of supply of the urban population sent from Germany was announced. The contents of these directions are briefly as follows: “the local military command allocates products to supply the town. Their distribution is assigned to the supply departments of town councils. Ration cards are issued only to those people who are registered by the labor exchange. The entire population of the city is divided into five groups, depending on difficulty of work. The first group (children up to 15 years), the second – not working women and men with disabilities, and the third is engaged in light work and employees, the fourth is engaged in heavy work and the fifth group employed on much heavier work. For each of these groups the corresponding norm was established. For example, for the 1st group – 553 gr. of rye per week, 38 gr. of cereals, 1 250 gr. potatoes a week. For 2 and 3 groups no new types of products are added, and there is only not significantly increased number of these products. For 4 group – 1 400 g rye, cereals – 200 grams, potatoes 3,5 kg, meat 75 g, fat – 60 grams, half a liter of skim milk a week. The fifth group gets a small increase in rye and meat” (NARB. F. 1450. L. 2. F. 1308, p. 123).

The supply division carried out all the preparatory work for the transition of supply to the new conditions. But the commandant of Polotsk took a completely different order, according to which it was established 3 groups with corresponding norms of products: group 1 (children up to 14 years inclusive) – 500 g of bread per week and 100 g cereals; 2 group (all women whether employed or not employed) – 1 000 gr. bread and 200 gr. Cereals; group 3 (men) – 1 500 grams bread, 200 grams of cereals per week. According to this order coupons for bread and food were issued, and for a period of 12–18 October 1942 the bread was given (NARB. F. 1450. L. 2. F 1308, p. 124).

It should be noted that this “promotion” was short-term, if not unique in its kind. In the future, the food supply was carried out with great stoppages and in low volumes.

In the trade laws on barter were in force. As the stores did not perform fully their functions, the main process of goods exchange was on the market (the cost of a place for trading was 2 rubles). By the end of 1942, the market as such practically had not functioned, that was associated with the activity of the underground and partisan movement. Respectively, the permit system in the town made it almost impossible to bring food for sale to rural residents. In most cases police confiscated the goods for their personal needs; in some cases it was possible to exchange it with German soldiers on cigarettes, tobacco, shaving soap and other stuff.

Nevertheless, sale places, in addition to stores as delivery points of food on the ration cards, were presented by a few sales outlets of the Central trading company “Vostok” (*Zentralhandelsgesellschaft “Ost”*), as well as by private shops, for the activities of which an administration patent were issued in the city council.

The stalls of the Central trading company “Vostok” were mainly engaged in collecting scrap iron, the payment for which was carried out by the food (chickens, eggs, butter, berries, and mushrooms) or alcohol, matches, tobacco and salt (NARB. F. 1450. L. 4. F. 26, p. 18.).

The private trade was represented by several stalls, which sell finished products – sandwiches, cutlets, eggs.

The grocery store (head K. I. Kukharenko) worked in Pushkin Street worked serving employees of the government and railway workers (Memory 2002, p. 433). There was a private pub (the owners from Russian Germans), where hot food and even home-distilled vodka were sold.

Food prices were unacceptable to the local population with low wages; they were focused on the solvent German soldiers and employees of German institutions. Many of the soldiers sent the goods by mail to their relatives in Germany, especially after 1942.

Nazi occupation authorities tried to establish control over the growth of prices – it was set a certain fee, for example, 6 rubles per a dozen of eggs (with a market price of 100 rubles per dozen), 1 ruble for 1 liter of milk, etc. This policy in pricing led to the fact that rural residents began to sell their goods to customers came across on the way (NARB. F. 1450. L. 4. F. 26, p. 21).

In addition, in Polotsk, there were 2 canteens, preparing up to 2 thousand portions of soups (in the winter 100 grams of bread was given for dinner, in the summer of 1942, not regularly 50 grams) with total urban population of about 15 thousand people. And again only those who had food cards could get the dinners (NARB. F. 1450. L. 2. F. 1308, p. 124).

Thus, the trade was allowed both through food outlets using the ration card system administered by the supply department of Polotsk city council and through exchange outlets controlled by Polotsk branch of the Central trade Association “Vostok”, as well as through private shops. The supply of necessary food of citizens did not occupy the first place in the occupation authorities’ activities, the attempt to regulate the pricing process was also aimed at ensuring primarily regular and security military units dislocated in Polotsk.

For the entire period of occupation 1941–1944 in Polotsk not a single document governing the issuance of shoes, clothes or other products of everyday life was elicited.

Taxation

All residents of Polotsk at the age of 15 to 60 were imposed on poll tax of 100 rubles a year; for the land they charged land rent; buildings insurance was charged of 10% of the grade (the old Soviet estimate). Additionally they were taxed to pay for the street headmen (appointed by Polotsk city Council street warden). The dog owners (15 rubles), cat owners (10 rubles) and cattle owners were assessed. An owner of a cow was obliged to give a liter of milk daily. Artisans were taxed 25% of their income. Compared with 1943, the taxes were significantly increased. From the salaries of working people 10% were taken on a monthly basis as an income tax (NARB. F. 1450. L. 2. F. 45, p. 124).

Health

There were several medical facilities including two hospitals, a hospital for Russian workers (housed in the same building with a depot office and a railway workshop for the German railway men).

In the building of Polotsk V. I. Lenin national hospital (among people referred to as Red hospital – the building is constructed of red brick) a hospital for wounded Soviet prisoners of war was originally housed. Here the maternity department (headed N. Krupina) was organized a little later (ZSA in Polotsk. F. 1164. L. 11. F. 41, p. 100). In 1943 wounded Cossacks and police were treated there.

In the buildings of the former Jesuit College (in Soviet time –a military hospital) there was also a hospital for German soldiers, around the hospital fortifications were built (NARB. F. 1450. Op. 1. D. 17. L. 60).

In the former Forestry College a hospital for the wounded of Vlasov army was located (NPHCMR. KP – S2774, p. 230).

In these medical institutions mainly German doctors worked, local staff was attracted as well.

Hospitals for the local population were poorly heated; the food supply was more or less satisfactory. The situation with medicines was worse – they were almost lacked. Even of

diphtheritic vaccine that was available in very large quantities at a nearby German military hospital was not supplied for local patients. A bacteriological laboratory, an x-ray cabinet at the “Russian” hospitals did not exist at that time also. This kind of work sometimes was performed by German hospital. Infectious disease departments were always overcrowded. There was no dentist’s surgery, for the lack of medicines teeth were simply pulled out (NARB. F. 1450. Op. 1. D. 17. L. 60).

Culture, education and religion

The cultural-educational department of Polotsk town Council was engaged in the sphere of culture, education and religion affairs.

According to the report about the activities of the security police and the SD of Einsatzgruppe “B” and the situation for the period from 16 to 30 September 1942 there was 1 theatre in Polotsk (NARB. F. 1440. L. 3. F. 949, p. 76), 2 cinemas (NARB. F. 1440. L. 3. F. 949, p. 81). In the theatre troupe there was only one professional actor. Except for the professional actor invited artists played in the performances. “Some training opportunities are available. So, for example, from Orel it was reported that in mid-March 1942 in Karachev with the permission of the municipal government a drama school was opened. The performances are small folk scenes with trivial content” (NARB. F. 1440. L. 3. F. 949, p. 102). An entrance fee was 5, 7 and 10 rubles (NARB. F. 1440. L. 3. F. 949, p. 130).

There were no cinemas for the local population in Polotsk. Partly on certain days in the cinema for soldiers feature films were shown for the civilian population, the same as were demonstrated for the soldiers of the Wehrmacht, “in the cinema for soldiers they show for the population the same films as for soldiers: “The Lives of Workers and Peasants in Germany”, “German Face of Flanders”, “Journey on the Rhine”, “The Glass Blowers” (NARB. F. 1440. L. 3. F. 949, p. 105). For a better understanding of the content of movies by Russian population they show films in the cinemas containing subtitles in Russian. During the movie for the civilian population in the cinemas there are interpreters that tell about the content of the film before its demonstration or in the course of the demonstration commenting on actions, conversations and events” (NARB. F. 1440. L. 3. F. 949, p. 106).

All cultural institutions, working in Polotsk, were directed to the entertainment of German soldiers located here. The local population was allowed, for example, in the cinemas, only to promote “the good life in Germany”.

The propaganda was conducted not only through movies, but also through presentations of those who visited Germany. From the report on the activities of the security police and the SD of Einsatzgruppe “B” and the situation for the period from 16 to 30 September 1942: “the Russian population in Polotsk heard two reports. The first was the impressions about the trip to Germany made by the farmer Kozlov. The second report was on the subject “For or against Bolshevism” made by Ponomarev. During the second report there was a concert performed by amateur Russian prisoners of war from dulag – 125 in the amount of 20 people” (NARB. F. 1440. L. 3. F. 949, p. 111).

By the end of 1942 a municipal library of thousands of volumes was collected, but in spring 1943 it was destroyed during the bombing of the Soviet aviation of the town (Ilyinskiy 2011, p. 55.).

The education was in fact subordinated to one goal – to take up children to be busy. For example, during 1942, in Polotsk, the local authorities tried to establish the functioning of the 3 schools (4-year long and 7-year long) that worked without programs and textbooks (sometimes used Soviet textbooks). In total during the academic year the schools worked not more than 3 months (NARB. F. 1450. L. 2. F. 45, p. 124). Largely due to the fact that the school buildings not destroyed during the bombing were used by military units of the

Wehrmacht passing through the town. During this period teachers received only 50% of salary (NARB. F. 1450. L. 4. F. 26, p. 21.).

The attitude of the occupation authorities towards religion, according to P. Ilyinskiy, in Polotsk one can call as “friendly neutrality”. In order to obtain loyalty from the local population to its policy, the Nazis tried to restore pre-revolutionary role of the church. So, in Polotsk 2 Orthodox churches, 1 Catholic, 1 Baptist, and 1 Old Believers’ community were opened. In principle, it fulfilled its role – people began to attend services, performed marriages, baptized children. Church was not taxed, so the clergy had the opportunity to restore the temples. By 1944 8 Christian churches had been already opened and the monastery of our Savior and St. Evfrosinievskiy (Ilyinskiy 2011, p. 61). It should be noted that the occupation authorities actively used the religious issue to promote their regime.

Conclusion

Polotsk was occupied by the Nazis 15 – July 16 1941 and almost immediately the subsidiary bodies from the local people were established– the uyezd, then the district and the town council. In the town throughout the period of occupation industrial enterprises and medical institutions were functioning aimed at the maintenance of the German contingent; the local population was served very reluctantly and poorly. Cultural institutions (theatres, cinemas, library, etc.) existed only for German troops. The Church, to some extent and as it was effective, and the school were mainly used by the occupation authorities in order to promote a better life.

The underground and partisan movement significantly influenced the citizens’ way of life and the policies of the town commandant and local authorities. Especially this process became apparent in late 1942 with the formation and considerable activities of the partisan zones, as well as with the success in military operations of the Red Army. The result of it was the toughening of the permit regime, the dislocation of a significant part of the military contingent in the town, reducing the supply of the population and stoppage in operation of the trade, etc.

Bibliography

SAVR (State archives of Vitebsk region). – Fund. 2823. List1. – File 1 (Orders, instructions and directions Polotsk district council).

SAVR. – F. 2825. L. 1. – F. 1 (Orders, instructions, relations, etc. we-KO-Vitebsk and the leader of the Uyezd Council (5 November 1941 – December 1941).

Belyaev, A. V. (2010) “Local collaborationist administration as an integral part of the Nazi occupation regime in Belarus (1941–1944).” In: *Belarus. 1941–1945: the Feat. Tragedy. Memory*. In: 2 bs. B. 1. Minsk: Belarus. Navuka. Pp. 104–135.

ZSA (Zonal state archives) in the town of Polotsk. – F. 687. L. 1. – F. 1 (Resolutions, memoranda and summarizes the Commission of the crime and damage).

ZSA in Polotsk. – F. 1164. L. 11. – F. 41 (Krupina N. P. My memories. April 14, 1967).

Ilyinskiy, P. D. (2011) “Three years under German occupation in Belarus.” In: *Under the Germans. Memories, testimonies, documents. Historical-documentary collection*. Compiled by K. M. Aleksandrov. StPb.: Scriptorium. Pp. 40–138.

Novikay, S. Y. (2015) *Belarus uletku 1941: the new approaches to military actions research*. Smolensk.

Memory: Historical-documentary chronicle Polotsk (2002). Minsk: BelEn.

NARB (national archive of the Republic of Belarus). – F. 1440. L. 3. – F. 949 (Reports on the activities and operational setting of Einsatzgruppe “B” and security police CD).

NARB. – F. 1440. L. 3. –F. 952 (Administrative orders of the commander of the rear army group “Center”).

NARB. – F. 1450. L. 1. – F. 20 (Documents on conducting punitive operations against the partisans and the population).

NARB. – F. 1450. L. 2. – F. 1308 (Reports, information and reviews on the situation in the occupied territory of Vitebsk and Polessie regions, on fighting partisan groups and underground fighters of the Vitebsk region).

NARB. – F. 1450. L. 4. – F. 26 (Materials on combat activities of the 3rd Belarusian partisan brigade).

NARB. – F. 1450. L. 2. – F. 45 (Documents on the organization of the occupation authorities in the territory of Belarus “new” socio-economic and political order).

NARB. – F. 1450. L. 4. – F. 26 (Documents on combat and sabotage activities of the 3rd Belarusian partisan brigade).

NARB. – F. 1450. L. 1. – F. 17 (Plans and schemes of fortifications Minsk, Gomel, Lepel, Polotsk, and other cities. Legends to the plans and schemes. The Belarusian headquarters of the partisan movement. Secret department).

NARB. – F. 1450. L. 1. – F. 917 (Reports, memoranda, reports, intelligence data of agents and the command of a partisan brigade of Vitebsk and Vitebsk region).

NARB. – F. 1450. L. 2. – F. 45. – L. 124 (Politico-economic situation in the occupied territory of Belarus).

National Polotsk Historical and Cultural Museum-Reserve. KP – S2774 (Daynis, I. P. the Manuscript of “Polotsk in the twentieth century (1905–1967)”).

Kopsavilkums

Polocka nacistiskās okupācijas laikā

Rakstā pirmo reizi skarti Polotskas funkcionēšanas un apgādes jautājumi nacistiskās okupācijas laikā (1941.–1944.g.). Pētījuma pamatā ir plašs arhīvu dokumentu klāsts, kas pieejami šādos arhīvos: Baltkrievijas Republikas Nacionālais arhīvs, Vitebskas Reģiona Valsts arhīvs un Polotskas Novada Valsts arhīvs. Pētīti vietējo autonomo varas institūciju organizēšanas un darbības jautājumi, raksturotas rūpniecības iespējas un sniegto sabiedrisko pakalpojumu klāsts. Uzmanība pievērsta arī tirdzniecības sistēmai un varas institūciju politikas galvenajām vadlīnijām iedzīvotāju uztura apgādē, kā arī nodokļu problēmām. Svarīgi ir arī kultūras, izglītības un reliģijas jautājumi.

Atslēgas vārdi: Polocka, nacistu okupācija, vietējās autonomās varas institūcijas, rūpniecības iespējas, sabiedriskie pakalpojumi, tirdzniecības sistēma.

Резюме

Полоцк в годы немецкой оккупации

В статье впервые рассматриваются вопросы создания системы обеспечения населения Полоцка во время нацистской оккупации (1941–1944 гг.). Исследование основывается на материалах Национального Архива республики Беларусь, Государственного Регионального архива Витебска и Государственного Регионального архива Полоцка. В процессе исследования было проведено изучение материалов по созданию и функционированию органов местного самоуправления, обеспечения населения товарами и услугами. Особое внимание уделено вопросам торговли и налогообложения, а также организации системы образования, культурной и религиозной жизни.

Ключевые слова: Полоцк, нацистская оккупация, повседневность, гражданское население.