

people of the world is the great part of the sphere of tourism and we make it conform to our needs. But in any case WE will “build” our future and only WE can save our past.

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## UDC 94(476) “1943/1944”

**THE FORMATION OF THE DETACHMENTS OF THE BELARUSIAN BOUNDARY DEFENCE  
AT THE TERRITORY OF GLUBOKOYE DISTRICT IN 1944**

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*The formation of the detachments of the Belarusian Boundary Defence at the territory of Glubokoye district in 1944. On the basis of the documents have been unpublished previously. The article considers regional peculiarities and basic events to have been held by the authorities of the Belarusian Central Rada, forming the detachments of the Boundary Defence at the territory of Glubokoye district in 1944.*

The formation of the detachments of the Boundary Defence is possible to consider the basic motive of the German authorities for the creation of the Belarusian Central Rada on the whole. That is why the Boundary Defence was paid special attention in the activities of BCR. BBD was created on the occupied territory by the order and under the supervision of the general commissioner of Belarus K. fon Gottberg, who understood clearly, that its creation would play an important role in the advocacy and would become a useful tool in the struggle against partisans and those facts were really important for the Germans in the conditions of 1943.

According to the occupants' plan the basic assignment of BBD was to the use of partisans and later against the Red Army at the German-Soviet front. Besides, mobilizing the male contingent of the population into the BBD, the Germans were getting ready with the drawal of the battleworthy population during the katabasis of the German troops out of Belarus. That is why the formation of the BBD was held under the authority of Belorussian Central Rada almost in every districts of General Commissariat “Beloruteniya”, except for the districts, where the detachments of the Polish boundary army acted actively against the partisans [29, p. 31].

So on the 23rd of February, 1944, Gotteberg gave the permission for the mobilization in BBD. But Ostrovski order about the formation of BBD was signed only on the 6th of March, 1944. It said that “the reason of the formation of “national troop”: “for the final disposition of the Bolsheviks who rob our edge, murder innocent people and destroy property” [18, p. 183].

In the appropriate order of the president of BCR the scale of mobilization events and the responsibility of the recruits for the refusal to execute the will of Rada and occupying authorities were also discovered. For their non-appearance at the specified time and place the recruit was proclaimed a traitor, and the punishment – death sentence – was meant for him by the special tribunal [18, p. 183].

On the eve of the total mobilization in BBD on the basis of the same Gottberg's order district and volost departments of BBD were formed, which were subjected to the main headquarters of the BBD reporting to Belorussian Central Rada. Frants Kushel, the Mayor, was appointed the head of the front office. He was the man of the Rada's president's inner circle. The heads of the departments took charge of the zone subdivisions, the officers of BBD – of the districts [29, p. 32].

In particular, in Glubokoye district according to the resolution of the BCR dated February 25, 1944. Gregory Zybalyo was appointed as a head of the department of BBD. Regional officers were appointed as follows: Glubokoye district – Danenkovich Nikolay; Postavy region – Yaroshevich Anton; Voropaevo region – Krikun Iosif; Parfyanovski region – Kovalyonok Alexey; Disna region – Galetski Parfeniy; Plisa region – Trus Yevgeniy; Sharkovshchina region – Kotovich Bronislav [29, p. 63].

For the mobilization in the districts the acceptance boards were formed with the following membership: the governor of the BCR as a chairman, district officer, one chairman of the povet or district town, 2 doctors [20, p. 111].

From the military point of view, the formation of the battalions of BBD was done professionally, starting from the drafting of command staff line officers and underofficers was accomplished according to the previously compiled lists, which were provided by volost foremen. In the number of involuntary recruited to BBD the following people were subjected: the officers and captains who had served in the former Belopolskaya and Red Army, at the age up to 57 y.o. including officers and underofficers up to 55 y.o., who didn't serve at the senior positions in german establishments. On the 6 th of march 1944, after the previous preparation in accordance with the Ostrovskiy's order the total mobilization to the BBD started [29, p. 33].

Servicemen of 1908-1917 and 1921-1924 ys. of birth, almost the total male population were recruited.

On the 28-30 th of March, 1944, in Minsk the 1st meeting of district deputies of BCR and district governors of BBD was held where the deputy of BCR from Glubokoye district. I.Kosyak reported: "In Sharkovshchina and Plissa povets the departments of BBD were formed. The classes have already started, in povets the propagandists are being appointed. Up to now 13 officers 97 underofficers and 2800 riflemen were mobilized [12, p. 105].

For mobilization in Glubokoye povet according to the previously composed lists 2922 men should have been present but only 2850 had. Those who hadn't come were either policemen or detached men. Those recruited were 332 men. There were 4 officers, 27 underofficers and temporarily recruited 150 men. According to the order on the mobilization, at least 500 soldiers were subjected to the draft from each povet of Belarus, that is why this was insufficient. But its necessary to mention that the mobilization in Glubokoye povet was done voluntary. The positive result of the mobilization in Glubokoye was favorable meeting of the mobilization by German authorities" [26, p. 63].

In Postavy povet the mobilization started on the 18 th of march, 1944, as the order about the mobilization was received on the 16 th of march because of the hard communication. According to the previously compiled lists in Postavy povet 2600 men were subjected to the mobilization, but only 1200 appeared. For example, from Gruzdovsкая volost, where the population was 10000 people, 22 men came to the draft commission, 20 out of them were ill, only 2 men were mobilized. But from the whole povet into the departments of BBD 576 men were accepted, 527 of them being mobilized.

2 officers and 24 underofficers were included in that number, and the rest were considered to be temporary, who were on the leave by the technical reasons, and who could be drafted any minute into the BBD [18, p. 189].

It's necessary to point that from the very beginning of the mobilization and during the whole activity of BBD in Glubokoye district a plenty of organizational and material problems occurred. According to the order about the mobilization not later than 3 hours after the announcement of the order everyone who was subjected to the draft must go to the volost assembly point and then proceed to the region center for medical-commissionary examination [18, p. 183]. At this stage of the mobilization district seniors of the departments of BBD encountered the problem of the lack of doctors. That is why the medical commissions weren't held in some povets. For example, the doctor from Postavy povet – Puchko had left for Vilnius, and those feldshers who were at the territory of the district, as, for example, Sivitskiy from Dunilovichi village, refused to take part in medical commissions, being afraid of the repressions on behalf of the partisans [22, p. 2].

According to the protocol of the meeting of district deputies of BCR and district governors of BBD, dated 28-30 of march, 1944, another obstacle while holding the mobilization in Glubokoye district, by the words of the deputy of BCR Ya. Kosyak, was the activity on behalf of the Poles: "Polish influence was more harmful than bolsheviks' one. In Miory povet the mobilization was almost entirely sabotaged because крайсландвирт came from Poznan, he surrounded himself by the placement for BBD. As if on purpose in Porfyanovsky povet, the chairman was arrested during the time of mobilization. With the draft of officers and underofficers into District Defence; managerial posts were taken up by the poles quickly" [12, p. 105].

In every povet there were specific problems for sure, but the basic bane of the BBD; common for all, was the absence of the outfit, medical service, room equipment, food.

I. Kosyak reported the following: "Due to the cold attitude of the german authorities the accommodation wasn't ready when needed. The situation with the equipment of military rooms is bad. The solders sleep on the floor" [12, p. 106]. For example, in Glubokoye povet soldiers didn't have the place to sleep because the dairymen of BBD didn't manage to get planks for beds. But this problem was solved by robbing local population. The amount of rooms was not enough but this problem was solved by getting one more building" [26, p. 63].

The contagious diseases were wide-spread among the departments of BBD of Glubokoye povet. Regardless of the fact that the soldiers took baths, washed clothes; the itch was widely spread [26, p. 63].

The similar situation with the equipment of the rooms for the mobilized was in Postavy. Some accommodation needed repair works but there was the lack of nails and planks, some of the buildings were engaged by the representatives of German authorities. The chairman of Postavy povet reported that in one of the rooms which was engaged by BBD, in the kitchen, Drozd, the supervisor, lived. Gendarmeries forbade to resettle him thus preventing the realization of mobilization [26, p. 63].

Due to material problems the command staff literally robbed the local population by carrying out special household operations. These are the words of I.S. Pratsukevich, who entered the battalion of BBD in March, 1944, which acted in Postavy for 1,5 or 2 weeks. During this time we went to the nearby villages for collecting milk and meat products." We did it in the following way: we approached the village, I surrounded it by the circle of soldiers, and Sinyavsky with the rest of the soldiers entered the village and took the required quantity off the cattle and food. In fact it was not the collecting of supplies but the robbery of the citizens [29, p. 37].

Once we suffered partisans' gunfire and entered a battle. We lost several people injured and and killed and withdrew back to Postavy where the German camp was" [18, p. 184].

Officially the mobilization in BBD was finished, according to the R. Ostrovskiy's order #3 dated 12th of April, 1944, April, 15, 1944 [18, p. 184].

Each officer, under officer and rifleman under the draft to the detachments of BBD must take to the oath [18, c. 184]. The oath had such words: "I swear, that I'll fight side by side with a German soldier until the peace and security is settled in our villages and towns, until the last enemy of the Belarusian people is destroyed" [26, p. 35].

As the officers who were mobilized involuntarily to BBD were prepared poorly for military actions; they were directed to be trained at the officers' and underofficers' courses in Minsk. After the completion of the 1st courses. The next ones were summoned [18, p. 184]. On the 15th of April, 1944, the cadets of Glubokoye district come back having completed the course of training in Minsk.

During the second draft on the 18 of April, 1944, 12 officers and 56 underofficers from Glubokoye district were sent for training. Out of them Sharkovshchina povet, Plisa, Postavy and Miory povets sent 2 men for officers' course and 7 men for underofficers' course. Disna, Parafyanovo, Glubokoye and Voropayevo sent 1 man for officers' course and 7 men to take underofficers' course [25, p. 59]. It's necessary to note that there were volunteers among those sent for the officers' courses. One of them was Lukashovich Y., the resident of the Postavy, 1928 year of birth. In his application for enlistment into BBD he marked: "I served in the artillery corps, was at the front and now I regard it my duty to enter BBD and that is why I apply for 4-month officers' course in Minsk" [13, p. 51].

Consequently, on creation of a separate Belarusian military formation, in Belarus a fratricidal war, having planned by the Nazi, started officially thus fortifying occupants in implementing the genocide [29, p. 36].

In his memoirs F. Kushel said the following in this regard: "a month passed since the mobilization had completed. People were undertaking military training in the battalions. One rifle came for approximately 6-7 men. Accountments were not enough. The partisans discovered these facts and started to attack the battalions [16, p. 64].

It's necessary to mark, that more often Soviet partisans undertook night attacks to some casernes of BBD. So in Voropayevo and Plissa of Glubokoye district the battalions of BBD were attacked and knocked out at night. A part of men were taken captive and a part of them taken a run [20, p. 112]. In Sharkovshchina, in Krasny Dvor settlement where BBD detachments were located, Soviet partisans attacked the whole battalion at night. In stone casernes the soldiers defended themselves and drove the partisans away, wooden casernes were put on fire. The partisans dispersed 2 BBD squadrons. In the report after the investigation on the case in question the head of the povet Zuy Mikhail informed the following: "Bandits, according to confidential data, are planning to destroy all detachments of BBD and the invasion of Krasny Dvor was the 1st attempt in this direction. Total quantity of the assaulters on the night of the 3rd of April, current year, was 1200 people: armed division fell on the casernes in the direction of the settlement, and the 2nd division stood nearby having furmankas (повозка, телера) and expecting the possibility of robbery. On the act of attack 3 riflemen (not 6) were killed (nominally Metla Ivan – village Stolitsa, Olehnovich Levon – village Novosyoly, Lupchenot Vladimir – village Shishki). Each of the 3 died as heroes, 2 of them struggled with rifles at the posts near the principal building, the 3rd was killed by a bullet through the window in the centre of the building. There were no wounded. While defending, all riflemen and present command staff held the field courageously. Especially it is necessary to highlight the heroism of Puchinsky, the underofficer, who repelled the attack of the bandits from the entrance through the kitchen door and Matsura, the underofficer, who defended the central entrance of the caserne" [34, p. 11].

It's necessary to say, that on the night of the raid there was no officers in the casernes, they were in the town and this fact influenced the chaotic nature of the defence. Finally, the partisans took 40 soldiers with them out of the wooden casernes. In stone casernes all soldiers stayed and on the attack they were taken to Sharkovshchina, but there from the soldiers went home arbitrarily [34, p. 11].

As M. Zuy remarked: "The attack asserted depressive influence on the soldiers of the department of BBD, and on population. But on the 5th of April, 1944, when we got more arsenal with a povet's officer, and colloquized with the departments, we saw fairly good mood in the battalion, we didn't hear any admonitions, except for those that they need boots weapon to struggle with the bandits. During our visit there were 250 people in kasermes. The draft notices were sent to those who went home. So soon there will be right number of people. The kasermes weren't prepared for the defence by fortified measures: there were no barriers, no fighting positions – batchers, people weren't allocated in the case of attack [34, p. 11].

In Postavy of Glubokoye district 2 divisions were attacked by polish diversionists – officers from the center. Under their terror once at night these two divisions left kasermes and went to the forest to polish partisans. It's necessary to note that in other districts soviet partisans' attacks on the kasermes weren't successful as they were in Glubokoye, because the kasermes were located in the cities." [20, p. 112].

Apart from that there are known cases of voluntary changeover of the partisans in favor of BBD. Thus, on the 12 th of May, 1944, the partisans of Radionov's Brigade – Anton Hadkevich and Dentyar Vladimir turned up to the battalion of BBD in Luzhki.

Ran away partisans were mobilized unvoluntary to the Rodionov's divisions, which acted on the territory of the Berezina river, Ushachi district. On switching of the divisions of the earlier mentioned brigade in Plisa district, Hadkevich and Dehtyar stepped out for a bit and destined to the station in Luzhki for "the registration for voluntary service" in BBD. The same day they were directed for a check to Glubokoye [24, p. 57].

It's necessary to note that the members of partisans' intelligent service infiltrated into the ranks of BBD with the aim of counterpropaganda and sabotage activities "from inside". Intentionally for such cases on the 14 th of March, 1944, F. Kushel on behalf of the headquarters of BBD signed the detailed instruction, which for saw "keep caution, for the enemy could hold the provocation in store." [29, p. 35].

In the fight with partisans the soldiers in the battalions of BBD usually accepted a battle but gave in because of the inferiority of the enemies' weapon. This fact affected negatively the soldiers' moral state in the battalions [32, p. 533].

It's not surprising that the discipline began to come down instead the desertion rew up; moreover this was under the influence of partisans' propaganda [32, p. 533].

On the whole, one can't say that operations being held by the authorities of BBD on the territory of Glubokoye district were quite successful. Since the very beginning of the mobilization arrangements the authorities of BBD had come across a huge number of material problems and those ones of organization, which were hard to solve in the existing conditions. Apart from the obstacles on behalf of the Poles and the Bolsheviks, German authorities were not expected to help. The only positive effect of the mobilization on the territory of Glubokoye district was notably good submission among the recruits, which was noted in the governor's reports. But this fact is belay by the fact that plenty of people went there under the constraint: at the earliest convenience the soldiers of BBD plainly scattered, as it happened in Sharkovshchina while carrying out subversive operation by the partisans. The soldiers of Glubokoye district, mobilized into BBD, being trained insufficiently in the military relation, badly equipment, having constant irregularities in material and equipment maintenance, simply couldn't struggle against partisans, thus not fulfilling their principal function.

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