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SANITARY SERVICES IN THE PERM REGION DURING THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR

V.A. Horoshavin, L.N. Akimova, O. Shutov

Federal Service in Consumer Rights Protection and Human Wellbeing in the Perm region,
Russia, Perm, st. Kuibyshev, 50

The article is devoted to the history of the formation of the Medical Service of the (Molotov) region during the war. We describe the problems encountered sanitary doctors in the war years, the direction of the main measures to address these problems. It is shown that the organizers of the health service – A.V. Kostina, V.A. Ryazanov, their colleagues have made every effort to prevent epidemics and save health of both local and evacuees. It is showed the role of volunteers, doctors of medical units at the plants, the Department of Health Medical Institute to improve the sanitary conditions in the region.

The sanitary service of the Perm region (in the past – Molotov region) met the Great Patriotic War with the understanding of complexity and variety of problems.

Executing the “Provision on the medical and sanitary servicing of population evacuated from the endangered regions” adopted by the Narkomzdrav of USSR together with the People's Commissariat of the Means of Communication already on June 30m 1941, in Molotov at the regional health department to solve the issues of infectious morbidity in the shortest terms there were created the epidemiological administration headed by Angelina Vasilyevna Kostina (fig. 1). She was engaged in organizing the current sanitary surveillance in the region in war-time.

Little later – on April 23, 1942 – based on the decision of executive committee of Molotov regional working deputies board No. 327 it was created the regional sanitary and epidemiological station (SES). On the initiative of Angelina Vasilyevna together with chief state sanitary inspector of the region V.A. Ryazanov (fig. 2) and at the participation of the regional executive committee it was developed the plan for the development of SES in the cities and districts of the region which was approved and sent to the Government of the

Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.

The creation of SES was started in the cities and districts of the region. To 1945 their number was already 28, and in the 17 of them the sanitary and bacteriological laboratories were created. Thus, in 1941 the SES of Solikamsk was created and to 1949 it existed together with the state sanitary inspection. In Chusovo before 1940 the sanitary issues were in the responsibility area of the state sanitary inspection, and in 1940 the sanitary and epidemiological station was opened in the city.

The tasks for the sanitary doctors were very different and each of them was complex by own nature.

In the population clusters of the region the situation with housing stock was not favorable. The archive contains the documents which allow for understanding the whole depth of problem. Thus, the chief state inspector A.A. Shavkunov in March 1941 examined 6 municipal hutments at Timiryazev and Kommunalnaya Str. in Chusovo. The following was recorded in the act: “Hutment No. 2 is of frame type, plank-built, with filling of walls. 25 rooms, common corridor in the middle. All the rooms are not looking good, some furnaces are smoking, and many walls are frozen. Dampness, the plaster falls off. According to the inhabi-

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Horoshavin Victor A. – Ph.D., Deputy Head (e-mail: urpn@59.rosпотrebnadzor.ru; tel.: +7 (342) 239-35-63).

Akimova Ludmila N. – Deputy Head (e-mail: urpn@59.rosпотrebnadzor.ru; tel.: +7 (342) 239-35-63).

Shutova Olga V. – spokesman (e-mail: urpn@59.rosпотrebnadzor.ru; tel.: +7 (912) 982-95-64).

tants, the roof leaks above the windows. The hutment is populated with workers with families, about 160 persons. Hutment No. 3. Timbered, but very old. It is located in low place, there are no drain ditches, dampness under the floor, air is

heavy, the walls near the windows especially in the bottom are rotten. The capital or any supporting repair is not reasonable. Hutments No. 4 and 5. They are populated by the factory workers with families, the condition is same”.



Fig. 1. A.V. Kostina



Fig. 2. V.A. Ryazanov

And in these conditions in the second half of 1941 and the first half of 1942 Perm region accepted 1382 trains with people evacuated from the western regions of the country – more than 320 thousands of people. They were the employees of 142 large enterprises of the western part of the country, a num-

ber of educational institutions, objects of culture and simply the refugees from the occupied or frontline territories. There was the deficit in housing.

The evacuated people were located in the regional center, district centers and neighboring villages (fig. 3).



Fig. 3. The students of Leningrad choreographic school evacuated to Molotov at the lessons in village, where they were temporary accomodated.

The autumn weather and severe winter frosts of 1941 worsened the situation. The flow of people, often dingy, hungry and survived the serious emotional and physical loads – all this resulted in the complication of epidemiological situation. The sanitary and control points and in the districts and cities – the decontamination stations and disinfectant points were created at the population evacuation routes. Since the beginning of 1943 the emergency antiepidemic committees provided with special authorities were created in all the cities and districts. For example, the evacuation point of station Perm-II in 150-200 km from Perm established the control to find out where and how many people located in this train are evacuated and their sanitary

condition. The kitchen and canteen for the meals of evacuated were working continuously at the station. For further going the people were provided with packed meal in the previously prepared packs with bread, cereals, sugar and butter. Here the medical and cultural services were provided. The political informers, lecturers and reporters informed the arriving people on the situation on the fronts of war and international events.

In order to prevent the increase in the morbidity with spotted fever in the conditions of the rapid worsening of the everyday life of population the large scope of disinfective measures was implemented (fig. 4).



Fig. 4. Disinfective measures at the railway station

The serious work was performed to raise the qualification of the medical workers in relation to the diagnostics of infectious diseases. The special attention during the years of war was paid to the organization and training of sanitary staff. For example, in Perm in 1944 728 social inspectors were actively working.

Already in autumn 1941 the movement of women-voluntary helpers was started; they created at the orphan asylums and boarding schools the committees on the collection of warm clothes and domestic items as well as were responsible for the organization of the improvement of premises and duty at the children institutions. More than 3000 of permanent children institutions of different profile (children houses, day nurseries, kindergartens, orphan asylums, etc.) were opened for servicing the youngest evacuated citizens.

The positions of public sanitary authorized agents, in majority passed the special training, were established almost at all the collective farms. In a number of districts the sanitary authorized agents in their activity reported to the collective farm meetings and regional conferences. The work with sanitary staff was especially well organized in Osinsky district. The district regularly conducted the meetings of the sanitary authorized agents and the best of them were systematically rewarded, the papers wrote about them, etc.

Angelina Vasilyevna Kostina in 1943 due to the spotted fever breakout occurred in Berezovsky district was able with the help of staff to organize the unified sanitary day at the collective farms of this district. During one day 1093 yards were cleaned, more than 1000 yard lavatories were dugged, more than 1000 carts of garbage were transported. The complete care-

ful cleaning of the dwelling huts of collective farmers and household stuff was performed (fig. 5). After the completion of work all people washed in bath-houses and disinfected the clothes; after that they were vaccinated against the typhoid fever. No new cases of diseases were observed at these collective farms after the conduction of “unified sanitary day”.

The heroic work of workers and engineering and technical staff of the rear factories in the years of war also required the attention of sanitary services. Surviving all the difficulties of war – malnutrition, deficit of necessary things – the people performed the work, sometimes not leaving the shops during the whole days (fig. 6).



Fig. 5 Sanitary treatment of premise

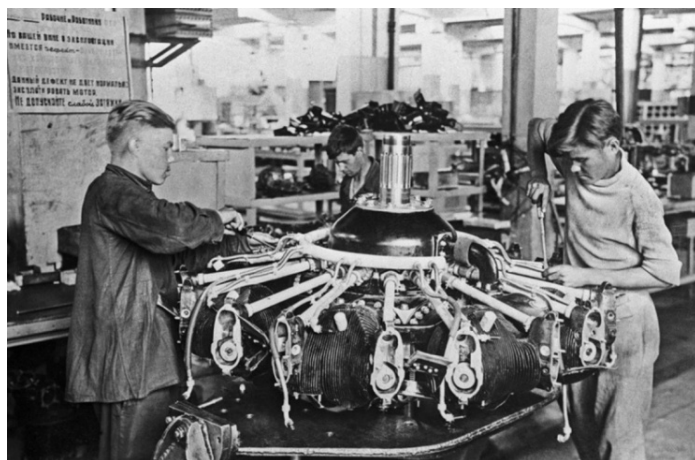


Fig. 6. Assembling the motor of airplanes at the motor plant No. 19, Perm, 1943

The struggle for decreasing the morbidity of workers at the factories was in the focus of health-care organs, state sanitary inspection, party and soviet organizations. They carried out the clear control over the sanitary condition of plants and the activity of the medical and sanitary departments and aid posts. But the medical workers of the medical and sanitary departments and aid posts played the decisive role in the struggle for decreasing the morbidity of workers.

The health preservation problem was current due to the fact that at the most of enterprises of industrial Ural, including Perm (Molotov) region,

more than 60% of workers consisted of teenagers. Thus, at Perm plant No. 577 in 1942 about 63% of workers were teenager girls in the age up to 18 years. Under the old papers many people remember the story of Ural boy Valya Kusakin (fig. 7) who in the age of 12 years started to work at the factory named after Ya. M. Sverdlov. He worked for 8-10 hours instead of permitted 4 hours and overfulfilled the norm by 200-300%. And this case was not the exclusion. To protect the health of all the groups of workers Perm region in the years of war started to create the closed medical and sanitary departments to service the large factories. In

1943 already five medical and sanitary departments were organized in the region. The large polyclinic was created in Berezniki for three large

plants. New aid posts were rapidly created at the factories. In 1940 they amounted to 43, in 1941 – 49, in 1943 – 110.

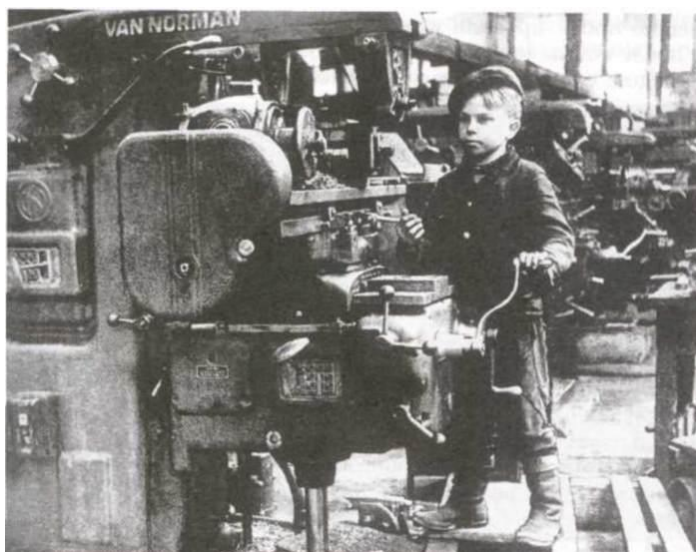


Fig. 7. 12-year old milling machine operator of motor plant No. 19 Valya Kusakin, Perm, 1943 (photo by M.I. Kuznetsov)

In the competition of medical and sanitary departments in Perm during the whole war the first place was occupied by the medical and sanitary department No. 1 (chief doctor I.A. Litvak). Under the auspices of administration and trade union organization the consolidated personnel of the medical and sanitary department No. 1 was able to organize very accurately the health-improving work at the factory and in the houses and provide the medical services to the workers.

Under the leadership of I.A. Litvak the medical and sanitary department organized in 1942 the inpatient department for 60 beds which later was extended to 100 beds and then the vitamin shop and sanitary-hygienic laboratory, and in 1943 – the night health station for 75 beds. Also the employment of all the patients with tuberculosis was performed. All of them were attached to the special canteen.

To organize the preventive work at the factory all the doctors of the medical and sanitary department were attached to the certain shops. The morbidity with temporary loss of earning capacity at the factory named after Sverdlov was systematically decreased. Only in 1944 under the social insurance budget the factory and plant budget saved 5 mln. rubles.

The work at the medical and sanitary department No. 2 was organized very accurately (chief doctor N.P. Anurov). In addition to the common measures on the decrease of morbidity it implemented a lot of innovations. In 1943 r. during the epidemic of

flu under the auspices of the factory administration the doctors visited the workers who did not come to the work.

The mass cooking of food from rhubarb was performed at the factory to prevent the avitaminosis.

The doctors started to use the firry ointment instead of Visnevsky ointment. To prevent the pustular diseases some shops installed the barrels with technical castor oil which was used by workers to lubricate the hands before work.

A lot of enthusiasm and creative initiative was demonstrated by the doctors from other medical and sanitary departments of the regions and city. Great consulting assistance was provided by Perm Medical Institute, especially the department of general and military hygiene. In the years of war (1942-1944) it was established and headed by professor David Aleksandrovich Zilber evacuated from Leningrad due to dystrophy but after disease he was able to raise the medical and preventive science to the level maximal for that time.

Russia survived the severe testing of the Great Patriotic War. The Victory Day was celebrated by everybody and among them were those who during the most severe years ensured the sanitary and epidemiological safety of people and applying all the forces and time worked as the whole country under the motto: "Everything for the front,

everything for victory!” We remember their and nothing is forgotten.
names, their actions, their heroic deed! Nobody

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