

# The Use of Labor of Prisoners of War in Turkestan (1914-1915)

Khasanova Zulhumor Jalolitdinovna, Ph.D

Doctoral Student, State University named after Sharof Rashidov, Samarkand, Uzbekistan

## ABSTRACT

This article provides information on the use of the labor of prisoners of war who arrived in the Turkestan Territory.

**KEYWORDS:** Turkestan, telegram, worker, states, labor, committee, prisoner, camp, farms

The first prisoners of war were brought to Turkestan in September 1914. They hastily quartered in the barracks of the troops of the Turkestan military district in 37 specially built camps and other premises adapted to the living conditions of people.

About 150 thousand were in Central Asia for a short time. Appearance in Central Asia in 1914-1915. A large number of prisoners significantly worsened the financial situation of the indigenous population, led to a growing food and manufactured goods crisis, worsened the sanitary situation of the region, and posed a number of difficult questions and problems for the administrations.

Questions about the maintenance, accommodation, supply of allowances and clothing for prisoners of war, was very relevant, because without the benefit of the State, he was spending money on their maintenance. And the question was raised about the use of the labor of prisoners of war.

This issue of the use of the labor of prisoners of war, by the administration, was resolved positively, and soon it began to be used very widely in construction, agriculture and other industries.

The National Archives of the Republic of Uzbekistan has preserved many documents on the use of the labor of prisoners of war in the Turkestan region. For example:

### Order to the troops

#### Turkestan military district

#### Commander of the Turkestan Military District

The acute labor crisis being experienced in all measure in connection with the outflow of several million of the most efficient workers of this country into the army creates such a huge need for workers in all branches of industry and economy that, as I have already reported in telegram number 2053, leave to help in such needs, prisoners of war is now a particularly important state task. The speedy execution, to the extent possible, of uninvited measures in the interests without the ability and the very life of the state depends on the regularity and intensity of the orders required by the military authorities in the distribution and transfer of persons under his jurisdiction, in the military districts of the interior region, free from work of healthy and able-bodied prisoners.

For this purpose, and bearing in mind the highest teachings given in the telegram No. that, not one prisoner of any ability to work would not remain unused for work, and moreover, in those of the most important enterprises and sectors of the

economy in relation to the defense of the state, in which at the present time there is a more urgent need for workers

In accordance with this, and taking into account the insufficiency of a cash knife to satisfy all of this kind, and in our country the number of free and able-bodied prisoners in the regiment is certainly necessary, in distributing these latter to work, strictly adhere to those guidelines on leave at the disposal of one or another departmental the number of prisoners of war that have to come from the side of the Main Directorate of the General Staff, from the requirements of the departments with the total cash, in the military districts of free prisoners.

For the purpose of a speedy settlement, it is indicated in the case and it seems now necessary to temporarily cancel the established procedure for directly satisfying the demand for the release of prisoners of war to work by the local military district authorities, instead, to establish a procedure for the strict direction of all newly entering demands of this kind to the main Directorate of the General Staff in order to unite this case in it accounting and distribution of the unused contingent of prisoners.

In accordance with this, confirming all the instructions, I, in telegram No. 2053, ask those who depend on the order of Your Excellency for the northern termination, now the appointment of the headquarters of the military district of prisoners of war to you, in general, for all kinds of both agricultural and other work. Along with this, I also ask you to order to urgently inform the Main Directorate of the General Staff what outfits for how many prisoners and for what kind of work should still be executed by the named headquarters, and then instructions from the Main Directorate will follow accordingly.

Regardless of this, I ask Your Excellency for an order to deliver information to the same chief steward in the near future about those works of secondary importance, including the construction of railways where there are Slavs in the district and who are among the prisoners of war, in case it is necessary to reassign them to especially important work.

In order to strengthen, to the extreme extent possible, the existing contingent of prisoners can be used for the needs of the subordinate departments and the most important military enterprises, I ask you to give an order so that during the upcoming execution of orders, especially for agricultural work, otherwise the required batches of prisoners should be as widely as possible appointed to those who, being incapable for health reasons, of various hard work (for example, in coal mines, in factories) can nevertheless be recognized as fit for performing lighter work, somehow the distribution of a kind of field work according to the conditions of their production in clean air, with sufficiently good nutrition, even contributes to the speedy restoration of health. At the same time, I ask for your Excellency's order for a numerical revision of the entire category of prisoners of

war classified by the local authorities as incapable of work, so that we would include in this category only prisoners who are really sick and completely incapable of any physical labor.

At the same time, in order to ensure the fullest use by the local authorities of all the elements of prisoners in this paragraph who are not at all suitable for one or another work, I ask for an order to warn the chiefs of the named checks of their activities in the implementation of work orders, a delay of such prisoners in the points then found guilty in force commanding person will be held accountable to the fullest extent of the law. In addition to the above measures aimed at a possible increase in the available number of able-bodied prisoners, I ask Your Excellency not to refuse in Denmark the order to take the most energetic measures to save this valuable working material from epidemic diseases, as well as to prevent the removal of those of you population, prisoners of war in agricultural and other areas. works. For these purposes, it is necessary to place prisoners of war in places that are unfavorable for contagious diseases, immediately resort to special quarantine measures, and immediately stand out. According to a due medical examination of all healthy prisoners, it was established that the very careful observation of them during the prescribed day of a certain kind, a period of illness. Keeping this kind of quarantine, the prisoners of war in private completely healthy, can already be transferred to the nearest untouched by the epidemic points, mapping prisoners of war for further dispatch to work.

In addition to what has been stated in relation to the one who is now earning in detail by agreement with the relevant departments, we will work on the very procedure for distribution, in these other areas of the already mentioned free contingent of prisoners, he considers it preliminary

necessary to inform Your Excellency that for the use of the immediate line of paramount importance of work, I am only a small comparative number left without the use of captured Slavs, the Germans and Hungarians will serve as the main continent for assignment to agricultural and other responsible work. And since the bulk of these latter are concentrated within the districts of Siberia and Turkestan, in order to avoid delays in the distribution of the named prisoners of war, we will have to work in advance of criminal movement of them gradually, to European Russia.

A number of orders were adopted on the use of the labor of prisoners of war, and began to use their labor in all areas. They were hired by private enterprises, for example, to work in mines, their labor was also widely used for agricultural work, they were engaged in gardening, harvesting, etc. Mostly prisoners of war worked in the construction of railways, built schools and hospitals, temples for the Russian population of Turkestan.

#### References

- [1] The situation of prisoners of war in Turkestan during the First World War. Doroshenko T.I. // Bulletin of science and education No. 10 (113), part-1 2021
- [2] National Archive of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Fund I-1, opis-3, file-1268.
- [3] Turkestan captivity: German and Austro-Hungarian prisoners of war in Russian Turkestan during the First World War. Katjukova T.V. // Russia and the modern world. 2017
- [4] Verzhkhovsky D.P. World War I 1914-1918 Moscow 1975