

УДК 94(47)+94(470.326)

DOI 10.28995/2073-0101-2018-4-1009-1019

Vladimir B. Bezgin

Tambov State Technical University, Tambov, Russian Federation

'The Sentence Has Been Executed Straightaway': Telegrams about Executions of the Participants of the Peasant Revolt of 1920—1921 from the Fond of the Military Board of the Supreme Tribunal

Abstract

The article draws on the archival sources introduced into scientific use for the first time to study the social character of active participants of the peasant revolt in the Tambov gubernia (1920-1921) who executed under sentences of the revolutionary tribunals. Telegraphic messages from the revolutionary military tribunals about executions of insurgents stored in the fond of the Military Board of the Supreme Tribunal in the State Archive of the Russian Federation (GARF) are being introduced into scientific use. The article offers their content

analysis. The archival documents provide biographical data and establish main characteristics of insurgents and charges against them. The article analyses of the procedure of execution as a punitive measure used by the regime to suppress the revolt. It observes that the greatest number of sentences was executed at the final stage of the revolt suppression. Meetings of the revolutionary military tribunals were held in the evening or at night. As a rule, the meeting lasted for an hour or a bit longer; the sentence was not subject to any appeal and was executed immediately. The research identifies the social basis and nature of the insurgent movement and reveals the role of deserters and the civilians’ attitude to the actions of ‘bandits.’ The research also proves that the absolute majority of the insurgents were well-to-do peasants and their participation in the revolt was a conscious choice. All executed peasants were young; their average age was about 27. The local character of the revolt is proved by the geography of executed peasants’ residences. There were no Socialists-Revolutionaries among the executed insurgents; therefore, the revolt was free from political influence and expressed interests common to all peasants. The communistic regime saw in the execution of insurgents for ‘malicious and active banditism’ a repression measure to suppress the peasant revolt. The author has found out names of 70 Tambov peasants executed as participants of the revolt, which do not appear in the published sources.

Download the article: [bezgin_doi](#)

Keywords

Source, participants of the peasant revolt, Tambov gubernia, revolutionary military tribunal, verdict, execution, insurgents

References

“Antonovshchina”. Krest'yanskoe vosstanie v Tambovskoi oblasti v 1920–1921 gg.: Dokumenty, materialy, vospominaniya [DANILOV, V. P. (comp.). ‘Antonovschina’: Peasant uprising in the Tambov gubernia in 1920-21: Documents, materials, memories. In Russ.]. Tambov, 2007, 772 p.

Tambovskoe vosstanie 1920–1921 gg.: issledovaniya, dokumenty, vospominaniya. Pod red. A.V. Posadskogo. [POSADSKY A.V. (ed.). The Tambov uprising of 1920–1921: Research, documents, memoirs], Moscow, AIRO–XXI publ., 2018, 320 p.

About the author

Bezgin Vladimir Borisovich, PhD in History, professor, Tambov State Technical University, professor, Tambov, Russian Federation, +7-910-758-43-83, vladyka62@mail.ru

Grant information

The article was prepared with the financial support of the Russian Foundation for Basic Research, project no. 18-09-0014 ‘The phenomenon of the “Red” insurgency in the Civil War: Contingency of ideological installations, military and organizational solutions in the insurgency of the Central Black Earth Region, the Volga region, and the Southern Urals.’

Submitted 22.08.2018, published:

BEZGIN, V. B. “Prigovor priveden v ispolnenie nemedlenno”. Telegrammy o rasstrelakh uchastnikov krest'yanskogo vosstaniya 1920-1921 gg. v fonde VoЕННОI kollegii Verkhovnogo tribunala [‘The Sentence Has Been Executed Straightaway’: Telegrams about Executions of the Participants of the Peasant Revolt of 1920—1921 from the Fond of the Military Board of the Supreme Tribunal. In Russ.]. IN: Vestnik arhivista / Herald of an Archivist, 2018, no. 4, pp. 1009-1019. doi 10.28995/2073-0101-2018-4-1009-1019

You can read completely article in the russian historic-archival magazine “The Herald of an Archivist”. Read more about terms of subscription [here](#) .

Полностью материал публикуется в российском историко-архивоведческом журнале ВЕСТНИК АРХИВИСТА. Ознакомьтесь с условиями подписки [здесь](#) .