

Review

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“Material and Technical Support of the Red Army: 1928–45”: Publication of a New Documents
Collection at the Russian State Archive in Samara

Abstract

The review of the documents collection prepared by O. N. Soldatova and E. S. Bogdanova at the Russian State Archives in Samara (RGA v g. Samara) notes that the issues of material and technical support of the Red Army in 1928–45 has not been sufficiently studied in historiography. It emphasizes the uniqueness of the publication covering its scientific and technological aspects. The main thematic areas are of undoubted interest: uniforms and footwear for officers and soldiers, equipment and food for the army; innovative technological developments for fastening soles of shoes; raw materials for equipment. The review highlights documents containing information on technology of filming and movie screening, conveyor ovens, use of leather substitutes, special fabrics and prepared tissues, production of bread and bakery, canned food and concentrates, freezing and transportation of products, results of experimental tests. The compilers have carried out great work to identify and analyze the archaeological documents (including those previously classified) from 18 fonds, which are being introduced into scientific use for the first time. The comprehensive treatment of army provisioning is predicated upon the choice of various types of documents: recordkeeping, plans and reports, normative, reference, photographic documents, drawings, diagrams, periodicals. An analysis of the collection architectonics has been carried out, its structural advantages are noted (archaeographic preface, terminological dictionary, object reference, index, list of published documents, list of used fonds, list of abbreviations), as well as high professional level of archaeological preparation of documents. These characteristics bespeak of unconditional value of scientific and reference apparatus facilitating effective work with the collection. It is concluded that the documents have rich informative potential, increasing empirical base and opening opportunities for new historical and interdisciplinary research, including that of military, scientific-technical, and innovative issues.

Keywords

Russian State Archive in Samara, military construction in the USSR, material and technical support, Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

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