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History, Russia

Exile

Along with eviction from their homeland displaced persons lost virtually all the property, which in new places of residence had to create elementary conditions for existence literally from scratch. Siberia picture emerging from the diaries and stories of exiles, is the image of the daily struggle for survival. In the Soviet gulags it was the existence day after day on the verge of biological extinction. But even those who were lucky enough to get past the Soviet gulags, famine peeking every day in my eyes, and hard work, sometimes several hours a day at clearing the Siberian taiga, in the steppes of Kazakhstan and Karaganda mines, draining and destroying health. That eternal hunger in exile was marked by the struggle of parents for a piece of bread for their children, but also horizontal interest esteem gestures of human solidarity. Food allocations were minor and could not be enough to satisfy the hunger. Usually, it was the serving of black clay bread - more people working, less for the unemployed and thin soup, whose example would be the "soup" in the form of diluted dumplings prepared with flour on the water, which was prepared for the displaced in the kolkhoz Siemipolka in Kyrgyzstan. (J. Lesniak, *Memories Sybiraczki ANPTL*, Ref. 22 / s, p. 5).

To satisfy the hunger of people preparing meals from what could be found in the surrounding meadows and forests. Collected wild sorrel, clover, goosefoot, pigweed, stinging nettle cloth of gold. With nettles boiled watery soup, only with salt, and Lebioda prepared in a densely - "spinach". Plants also milled and processed them cakes, if they were able to get some flour and fat. Also in Siberia way to supplement daily, starvation diets and vitamin deficiency which caused scurvy and night blindness, it was to collect undergrowth. But there it was only possible when the reigning extremely short time, because only two months, years.

Polish citizens deported deep into the Soviet Union in February and June 1940. Obtained the special status of displaced persons. Exported in February in the nomenclature of the NKVD described as *specpieriesielency-Polskij settling*, and the victims of the June deportation has been assigned to *specpieriesielency-biezeny*. For the most part, they've come to special settlements (*specposiolki*) are under direct management of the NKVD, but also to state farms and collective farms.

Posiolok it was mostly forest clearing, which became barracks and houses administration along with the house commandant of the estate. Sometimes there were also fundamental outbuildings, such as a shop, bakery and school, and sometimes they were built only hands exiles. Often there was almost nothing and the whole camp had yet to be built by the exiles, who until then lived in makeshift huts or shacks. In the design of each family would receive a separate chamber or a separate place in the barracks, but never managed to provide a minimum allocation of living space per person, not to mention a separate room for individual families.

Specpieriesielency deported in February 1940. Were generally accommodated collectively in all sorts of barracks and dugouts, several or even several families in one of the barracks of several large, multiple-bed rooms. In these barracks usually they mounted wooden bunk bunks. Spano also often on makeshift, dense with boards on iron beds or bunks or simply on the ground. For heating the room served most often placed in the middle of the oven or 2 piece placed two of its ends, which generally also acted as the kitchen. The barracks divided into smaller rooms placed together in a single even 2-3 families with a total of 8-9 people. Also in this case it was necessary the use of common kitchen. Better at times where the exiles were quartered in houses after the displaced in the first half of the thirties "kulakach". They consisted of the Chamber for residential kitchens, the cells obórki per cow and sheds for firewood. They were located there for one large family or two smaller.

Commanders of the settlements keep a register of exiles. Leaving the estate for more than 24 hours and a change of residence within settlements could take place only with the consent of the commander. The commandant for offenses against the order and discipline of work could mete out fines or jail. NKVD officers also have the right lead to criminal or administrative liability for petty crimes on the

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basis alone of their inquiries. Blueprints also the fate of the family, taking the elderly and unable longer to work in homes for the elderly, thus separating them from their families. So parents separated from their children, but often the wife of her husband or sibling.

In much better conditions were exiles who were taken to state farms and collective farms. They were mostly accommodated in the room remaining at the disposal of a farm or administratively assigned to headquarters to local families. In the first case of Polish families they were placed in the different sheds, stables and barns temporarily available in connection with grazing cattle, or not used for a long time, often not treated with fertilizer. Assigned exiles abandoned and crumbling dugouts or houses temporarily uninhabited (eg. In connection with local families heading out on a summer wypasy in step). It happened that the empty chamber with an area of several square meters, without doors and windows, the broken hearth, placed even several families numbering together a dozen people. In pawłodarskim breeding sovkhoz exiles they quartered 5-6 families in one room, and 150 people placed in chambers not residential, but in a stable. The Kazakh collective farms, generally poor and neglected, dominated dugout. These were the same, low houses built of clay, usually with one or two chambers, with small, wmurowanyimi, not opening windows, without floors. The floor was earthen threshing floor. The function of the kitchen met the primitive hearth. Furniture in them, there were not any. Occasionally they were equipped with only a makeshift, cobbled together from planks bunks for sleeping. In most cases, however, Spano on the threshing floor quilted straw or weeds that have managed to break in the area.

Despite the general degradation and extreme deprivation, many unworthy behavior that occur in such conditions among Polish exiles were or were not uncommon. Even the Russians perceived specific Poles pride, which Solzhenitsyn called "Polish pride". A very important place in the life of the exiles occupied faith and prayer. Often it is because of this religion gained the trust of local Russians.

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