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AN ARCHIVAL AND INVESTIGATIVE CASE ON HRYHORIY TYMOFIYIV AS A SOURCE ON THE HISTORY OF REPRESSION DURING THE 1930s

Abstract. *The purpose of the research is to cover the repressive policy of the Soviet government towards the Ukrainian intelligentsia during the 1930s on the example of the archival and investigative case analysis on H. S. Tymofiyiv, the director of Babanska secondary school. The research methodology is based on scientific principles of objectivity, historical reliability and information value of the found documents. There have been used special historical methods, general scientific, interdisciplinary, personalized analysis, etc. The source base of the study is based on previously unavailable archival materials of the regional branch of the Sectoral Archive of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) at the State Archives of Cherkasy region. The scientific novelty of the research is to establish historical justice concerning the past of the Ukrainian people, rethinking social transformations in the retrospect against the background of modern conditions of the Ukrainian independence defending. The Conclusions. Based on historical and scientific analysis, it has been proven that during the 1930s the Soviet*

government established unconstitutional extrajudicial bodies with unlimited rights. In accordance with their resolutions and orders, a simplified litigation procedure was applied in the case on Hryhoriy Stepanovych Tymofiyiv, an educator from Uman region. According to the criminal case fabricated by Babansky district department of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs (NKVD) of the Ukrainian SSR, which is full of falsified testimonies of witnesses and reports with a lack of the crime evidence and denial of the guilt in "the counterrevolutionary nationalist activity" by the accused, H. S. Tymofiyiv was convicted twice (in 1937 – imprisonment, in 1950 – eviction). Only in 1956, owing to the work of prosecutorial supervision, the complaints of H. S. Tymofiyiv and his wife, the case was reviewed and closed by the Military Board of the Supreme Court of the USSR. H. S. Tymofiyiv was rehabilitated.

Key words: Hryhoriy Stepanovych Tymofiyiv, repressive and punitive system, archival and investigative case, accusation, Babanska secondary school.

АРХІВНО-СЛІДЧА СПРАВА НА ГРИГОРІЯ ТИМОФІІВА ЯК ДЖЕРЕЛО З ІСТОРІЇ РЕПРЕСІЙ 1930-х рр.

Анотація. Мета дослідження передбачає висвітлення репресивної політики радянської влади щодо української інтелігенції у 1930-х роках на прикладі аналізу архівно-слідчої справи директора Бабанської середньої школи Г.С. Тимофіїва. **Методологія дослідження** має за основу наукові принципи об'єктивності, історичної достовірності та інформаційної цінності віднайдених документів. Використано спеціальні історичні методи, загальнонаукові, міждисциплінарні, персоніфікованого аналізу та ін. Основу джерельної бази дослідження становлять раніше недоступні архівні матеріали регіонального відділення Галузевого архіву Служби Безпеки України (СБУ) при Державному архіві Черкаської області. **Наукова новизна** праці полягає у встановленні історичної справедливості щодо минулого українського народу, переосмисленні суспільних трансформацій у ретроспективному просторі на тлі сучасних умов відстоювання української незалежності. **Висновки.** На основі історико-наукового аналізу доведено, що у 1930-х роках радянською владою створювалися неконституційні позасудові органи з широкими правами. Відповідно до їхніх постанов і наказів було застосовано спрощене судочинство у справі освітянина Уманщини – Григорія Степановича Тимофіїва. За сфабрикованою Бабанським районним відділом Народного комісаріату внутрішніх справ (НКВС) УРСР карною справою, яка переповнена сфальсифікованими показаннями свідків і протоколами очних ставок з побіжною відсутністю доказів злочину та запереченням своєї вини обвинуваченого в "контрреволюційній націоналістичній діяльності", Г.С. Тимофіїва було засуджено двічі (1937 – ув'язнення, 1950 – виселення). Лише у 1956 р. завдяки роботі прокурорського нагляду, скарг Г.С. Тимофіїва та його дружини, справу було переглянуто і закрито Військовою колегією Верховного суду СРСР. Г.С. Тимофіїва реабілітовано.

Ключові слова: Григорій Степанович Тимофіїв, репресивно-каральна система, архівно-слідча справа, обвинувачення, Бабанська середня школа.

The Problem Statement. Political repressions during the Soviet times are a broad and specific issue, which is studied in various discourses, primarily, political science, history, sociology and the others (Nikolayev, I., 2019; Ruban M. Yu., Tatar'nov S. J., 2018). However, to a large extent, the issue still remains poorly studied or insufficiently rethought to learn certain lessons taking into consideration the current political situation not only in Ukraine but also around the world. After all, the consequences of the Soviet repressive and punitive system functioning during the last century were the physical extermination of the political, scientific and creative elite. There was deformation or destruction of values, traditions, longevity of generations. All those factors led to depressed public sentiment and, moreover, to the denationalization of the Ukrainian people.

Extended access to the information field, materials of the Sectoral Archives of the Security Service of Ukraine (the SBU) and its regional branches provides an opportunity

for a comprehensive elaboration and introduction into the scientific circulation of both complex generalizing works and individual personalized publications. As they say, the death of one person is a tragedy, and the death of millions of people – statistics. The spread of new scientific, historical and journalistic works of a regional nature will contribute to the life of a common historical space, taking into account the characteristics of certain social groups from different parts of Ukraine. Therefore, our task is to elucidate the criminal falsifications by the NKVD against teachers in Uman region during the 1930s, in particular, the falsified criminal case against H. S. Tymofiiiv, the director of Babanska secondary school.

The Analysis of Recent Researches and Publications. Scientific interest in the study of all aspects of the political terror during the interwar period remains stable due to the separation of the conceptual approaches diversity in the researches on the one hand, and the need to form the society values – on the other hand. There are many generalizing works of domestic and foreign researchers among the massive complex of works on the issue of the repressive and punitive system functioning in the republics of the former USSR and Ukraine, in particular. The following surnames of the historians and their works should be mentioned: V. Marochko, G. Hillig “Repressed Teachers of Ukraine: Victims of Political Terror (1929 – 1941)” (Marochko & Hillig, 2003), Enn Epplbom “History of the Gulag” (Epplbom, 2006) translated by A. Ishchenko, Yu. Shapoval and the others “Ukraine during the Period of the Great Terror: 1936 – 1938” (Ishchenko & Shapoval, 2009).

The purpose of the article is to reveal the features of the repression mechanism carried out during the 1930s by the Soviet totalitarian regime in Ukraine through the personalization of historical authenticity, in particular, the analysis and coverage of the archival investigative case on Hryhoriy Stepanovych Tymofiyiv, a teacher, Uman resident.

The Basic Material Statement. The repressive and punitive system of the totalitarian regime was formed in stages, beginning on November 8, 1917. The turning point in the large-scale centralization of the Soviet punitive bodies was the year of 1934, when the All-Union NKVD with branches in the republics and the extrajudicial body “Special Meeting” were established. In addition, the basis for the introduction of the simplification practice of judicial procedures by repressive bodies was the Resolution of the CEC and SNC of the USSR of December 1, 1934. It was the issue of making changes in the existing criminal procedure codes of the Soviet Union Republics on investigation and consideration cases on “terrorist organizations and terrorist acts against employees of the Soviet power”, in particular: “1. The investigation in these cases must be completed within a period not exceeding ten days. 2. To hand over the indictment to the accused one day before the trial in court. 3. Case hearings must be held without the participation of the court proceedings parties. 4. Cassation appeals against verdicts, as well as the filing of petitions for pardon, must not be allowed. 5. The death penalty must be carried out immediately after the sentence has been announced” (Postanovlenye, 1934). Thus, such changes gave the right to adopt and execute death sentences in falsified political cases in an expedited manner, while maintaining a certain procedural form. This later became a trend that led to the emergence of extrajudicial bodies (NKVD troikas) and the infamous operational order of the NKVD of the USSR No. 00447 “On the Repression of Former Kulaks, Criminals and other Anti-Soviet Elements” of July 30, 1937 (Operatyvnyi nakaz, 1937).

The repressive and punitive system functioned according to its own laws. Victims of mass repressions were people of different nationalities, professions, age categories... (Kuznets & Skus, 2020). The Ukrainian intelligentsia, teachers, in particular, suffered significant

devastating losses. The study of archival and investigative cases stored in the State Archives of Cherkasy region (DACHO) and the archives of the SBU Office in Cherkasy region makes it possible to trace the mechanism of repressions in Uman region, to establish and disclose the names of perpetrators, witnesses, victims ... The archival and investigative case on Hryhoriy Stepanovych Tymofiyiv reflects a criminal falsification of events, impunity, corruption of a certain stratum of the society, etc. (Archive of the SBU Office in Cherkasy region, f. 5 (R), d. 1, c. 250p, 133 p.).

Hryhoriy Stepanovych Tymofiyiv was born in 1905 in the village of Vyshchetarasivka, Tomakivskyi district, Dnipropetrovsk region. He grew up in a large peasant family. He, the one among the children, received primary education (1917) and incomplete secondary education (1921). After graduating from Zaporizhzhya pedagogical college (1925) he was sent to work as a teacher in Babansky district of Uman region (nowadays – Uman district of Cherkasy region). During 1934 – 1937 he was a part-time student at Odesa pedagogical institute. For some time he held the position of a head of the district department of education, and later – the director of Babanska secondary school. He taught history. He joined the Komsomol organization in 1922, became a candidate of the CPSU (b) in 1929. From 1932 he was a member of the Babansky District Executive Committee and its presidium. The family composition before the arrest: a wife – Polina Andriyivna, born in 1907, the sons – a seven-year-old Volodymyr and a nine-month-old Julius.

Resolution of October 1, 1937 on the arrest of H. S. Tymofiyiv was issued by the head of the Babansky district department of the NKVD of the UkrSSR, a junior lieutenant of the state security, M. I. Belov, based on a consideration of the charges. The latter contained the information on crimes under Art. 54. paragraphs 10 and 11 of the Criminal Code of the Ukrainian SSR, which consisted in the fact that “he was a member of a counter-revolutionary nationalist organization and carried out counter-revolutionary nationalist activities”, “he was a socially dangerous element and leaving him at large would hinder a successful investigation” (Archive of the SBU Office in Cherkasy region, f. 5625, d. 1, c. 10871, p. 1). According to this decision, Kulyk, Uman District Prosecutor, authorized the arrest of H. S. Tymofiyiv.

The analysis of the interrogation record of October 2, 1937 testifies to the categorical non-admission of guilt by the arrested and the denial of his participation in the “nationalist counter-revolutionary organization” (Archive of the SBU Office in Cherkasy region, f. 5625, d. 1, c. 10871, pp. 7–8). The accusations of close ties with the teachers of Babanska school, arrested in 1936 for counter-revolutionary activities, O. H. Orativsky and M. I. Brovchenko, probably, point at their testimony against H. S. Tymofiyiv. In addition, as evidenced by the additional protocol of interrogation on October 18, 1937, at the face-to-face of “participants in the counter-revolutionary nationalist organization” H. O. Melnik and M. D. Rudenko also confirmed the participation of H. S. Tymofiyiv (Archive of the SBU Office in Cherkasy region, f. 5625, d. 1, c. 10871, pp. 10–11). The expected information is contained in “Extract from the Interrogation Report of the Accused Melnyk Herasym Oleksandrovyeh”, in particular, it is about known for him members of the nationalist insurgent organization, among whom – “Tymofiyiv Hrihoriy Stepanovych, was expelled from the party in 1937 for counter-revolutionary activities and connection with members of the counter-revolutionary organization, now – the director of Babanska secondary school”. Here we find the following evidence of H. O. Melnyk: “After the arrests in 1932–33, the organizational connection among the remaining members of the counter-revolutionary organization was not lost. Thus, in the district department of the public education the head was a member of the counter-revolutionary organization – Tymofiyiv

H. S. and an inspector-methodologist, I – Melnyk H. O. Later, apart from the fact that the heads of departments changed, the cases were transferred to the successors. During that time, starting from 1933 and until now, the instigators of the counter-revolutionary organization are: Rusanovsky M. Ya. – the director of Oksanynska secondary school, Tymofiyiv H. S. – the director of Babanska secondary school and I – a methodologist of regional education, Melnyk H. O.” (Archive of the SBU Office in Cherkasy region, f. 5625, d. 1, c. 10871, p. 10). In addition, at the face of H. O. Melnyk confirmed that he “was aware of the preparation of an armed uprising planned in 1932 – 1933 and the participation of H. S. Tymofiyiv”, which the latter denied the participation (Archive of the SBU Office in Cherkasy region, f. 5625, d. 1, c. 10871, pp. 52–55). He expressed the refusal and objection firmly at face-to-face meeting with M. D. Rudenko, who stated about the participation of H. S. Tymofiyiv “... for a long time in the Ukrainian nationalist counter-revolutionary organization” (Archive of the SBU Office in Cherkasy region, f. 5625, d. 1, c. 10871, pp. 47–49).

M. L. Parfeniuk was the witness in the case, who worked as a teacher of Mathematics at Babanska secondary school since 1935. In his testimony, in addition to counter-revolutionary activities, he mentioned about the “fascist methods” of bringing up children at school and the persecution of young teachers by H. S. Tymofiyiv. M. L. Parfeniuk said that “only old teachers had authority” – Rusanovsky, Dudnyk, Oliynyk, and the others (Archive of the SBU Office in Cherkasy region, f. 5625, d. 1, c. 10871, pp. 19–21). Another witness, G. L. Langer, a teacher of Babanska secondary school, testified about disrespect for the party leaders and government leaders at school, anti-Semitism, and mentioned “there are many similar examples in other schools in the district”. In addition, he testified the following: “I know a group of teachers in the district, headed by P. P. Bozhok and G. O. Miller. They carried out counter-revolutionary nationalist work at schools of the district. The group included the teachers: M. Ya. Rusanovsky (a director of Oksanynska secondary school), H. S. Tymofiyiv (a director of Babanska secondary school), Dudnyk (a teacher of Oksanynska secondary school), F. H. Kravets (a teacher of Babanska secondary school), M. K. Martyniuk (a teacher of Dubovska secondary school)” (Archive of the SBU Office in Cherkasy region, f. 5625, d. 1, c. 10871, pp. 25–27). All were arrested by the NKVD, except of Martyniuk.

In the case there is also the testimony of a witness – F. S. Puchkova, a teacher of Babanska secondary school, who stated that she had known H. S. Tymofiyiv since 1931 at work at school and she had known him as a “counter-revolutionary element”. In particular, it was about the lack of reaction from H. S. Tymofiyiv, at that time the inspector of public education, on “enemy attacks of the teacher Yarova”. Instead, he treated F. S. Puchkova with contempt, who “detected counter-revolutionary activities at school” (Archive of the SBU Office in Cherkasy region, f. 5625, d. 1, c. 10871, pp. 41–44).

The indictment in case No. 3347 was prepared by Smolny, the head of the 3rd Department of Department IV of the State Security Department (UDB) of Kyiv Regional Department of the NKVD, junior lieutenant of the State Security Service and approved by Sokolov, the head of Department IV of the UDB KOU NKVD, senior lieutenant. It is a typical report on the work done by the NKVD: “The UDB of the NKVD Regional Office identified and liquidated the anti-Soviet Ukrainian nationalist terrorist organization, which set itself the task of overthrowing the Soviet power in Ukraine by force and establishing the fascist system. One of the members of the organization was Hryhoriy Stepanovych Tymofiyiv, arrested on October 2, 1937 and the arrested in this case. Tymofiyiv H. S. rejected being guilty to the charges against him. The investigation – the testimony of members of the anti-Soviet

nationalist organization Melnyk H. O. and Rudenko M. D., their face-to-face meetings with the accused Tymofiyiv H. S. found out that he had been a member of the anti-Soviet Ukrainian nationalist terrorist organization since 1930, to which he had been recruited by Mykyta Filimonovych Teliatnyk. This organization prepared for the violent overthrow of the Soviet power in Ukraine and the establishment of the fascist system. Tymofiyiv H. S. carried out the anti-Soviet nationalist work at school, aimed at disrupting the curriculum. As a result, Tymofiyiv H. S. was the subject to the court of the Military Collegium of the Supreme Court of the USSR in accordance with the law of December 1, 1934” (Archive of the SBU Office in Cherkasy region, f. 5625, d. 1, c. 10871, pp. 58–61).

According to the protocol of the preparatory meeting of October 24, 1937, the Military Board of the Supreme Court of the USSR determined that it agreed with the indictment approved by Raginsky, the assistant prosecutor of the USSR: Tymofiyiv H. S. must be sued according to Art. 20, 54-8 and 54-11 of the Criminal Code of the Ukrainian SSR, to hear the case in closed court without the participation of the prosecution, defense and witnesses in accordance with the resolution of the CEC of the USSR from 01.12.34” (Archive of the SBU Office in Cherkasy region, f. 5625, d. 1, c. 10871, p. 63). According to the decision of the closed trial H. S. Tymofiyiv was sentenced to ten years imprisonment with confiscation of property and deprivation of political rights for 5 years (Archive of the SBU Office in Cherkasy region, f. 5625, d. 1, c. 10871, pp. 65–68).

Initially, H. S. Tymofiyiv was in prison in Tyumen, and in 1939 he was transferred to Norilsk labour camp (VTT) of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs. From January of 1946, for exemplary work, his sentence was reduced, i.e., 2 years less with the attachment to Norilsk metallurgical plant. Until his release, he remained in the camp till the end of the hostilities, and later worked on the construction of the plant as a senior foreman.

On July 7, 1955, the Chief Military Prosecutor’s Office sent H. S. Tymofiyiv’s archival and investigative case to the head of the KGB Department under the RM of the Ukrainian SSR of Kyiv Region for inspection, as well as his appeal and his wife’s – Tymofiyiva P. A. In connection with the search for the case assistant there should have been no delay, taking into account that it requires oversight of the Party Control Committee (CPC) of the CPSU Central Committee. In the appeal we find the note on the consideration of the case without delay, taking into consideration that it came under the control of the Party Control Committee (CPC) of the Central Committee of the CPSU. The instruction “to carry out investigative actions necessary to establish the validity or unfoundedness of the conviction of H. S. Tymofiyiv” was argued by the following: “Both during the preliminary investigation and in court, Tymofiyiv H. S. pleaded not guilty, and categorically denied the testimony of Brovchenko, Melnyk, Rudenko, and witnesses Puchkova, Parfenyuk, and Langer in his case, stating that they had slandered him. Article 200 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of the Ukrainian SSR in the case on Tymofiyiv was not complied with” (Archive of the SBU Office in Cherkasy region, f. 5625, d. 1, c. 10871, pp. 70–72). In addition, in 1950 on Tymofiyiv H. S. the case was filed, on the basis of which by a resolution of the Special Meeting of the USSR State Security Committee of December 16, 1950, for the same crimes, he was exiled to a settlement in Krasnoyarsk territory under the supervision of the Ministry of State Security. The accused was not interrogated in this case.

In his appeal sent to the RM of the USSR addressed to the Chairman of the RM of the USSR H. M. Malenkov, H. S. Tymofiyiv denied his guilt categorically and claimed the use of coercive actions by the investigator M. I. Belov. In addition, from the explanations of H. S. Tymofiyiv finally becomes clear the reason for opening a political case against Hryhoriy Stepanovych, and

in particular it is about his refusal to testify against the headmaster of Babanska secondary school O. H. Orativsky, arrested in 1936, as a member of the “counter-revolutionary organization” (Archive of the SBU Office in Cherkasy region, f. 5625, d. 1, c. 10871, p. 73).

During the inspection of the archival and investigative case on H. S. Tymofiyiv in 1955, new witnesses were interviewed (Leleka P. Ya., Kondratiuk K. O., Tkachuk B. M., Desiatnyk M. M., Kersh L. Yu., Krotenko T. I.), and also M. F. Telitnyk, who “recruited H. S. Tymofiyiv to the counter-revolutionary organization”. All of them testified that they were not aware of any terrorist activities of H. S. Tymofiyiv.

At the beginning of January of 1956, the Military Prosecutor of the Department of the Chief Military Prosecutor’s Office, Bazykin, a lieutenant colonel of justice, issued an opinion to the Military Board of the Supreme Court of the USSR regarding the investigation into the case on H. S. Tymofiyiv (Archive of the SBU Office in Cherkasy region, f. 5625, d. 1, c. 10871, pp. 122–125). According to the conclusion, the verdict and resolution of the Special Meeting of the USSR State Security Committee of December 16, 1950 were cancelled and the case was closed. Also, as a result of an additional investigation, it was found out that H. S. Tymofiyiv was convicted in 1937 without any reason. During the inspection of the archival and investigative cases on H. O. Melnyk and M. D. Rudenko it was found out that they were sentenced to death by the troika of the UNKVD of Kyiv region on October 25, 1937. The grounds for their arrest were the testimony of M. I. Brovchenko, who at the court hearing of Kyiv Regional Court withdrew his testimony, in particular, regarding H. O. Melnyk and M. D. Rudenko. M. I. Brovchenko was convicted under Art. 54-10 and 54-1 of the Criminal Code of the Ukrainian SSR up to 8 years of labour camps. In this regard, H. S. Tymofiyiv’s sentence of the Military Board of the Supreme Court of October 25, 1937 was cancelled and the case was closed “for lack of corpus delicti in his actions”.

The Conclusions and Prospects for Further Research. The results of the analysis of the materials of the archival investigative case of Uman resident, a teacher Hryhoriy Stepanovych Tymofiyiv show the mechanism of falsification of criminal cases of the UDB of the NKVD during the 1930s. Being accused because of fabricated testimony under pressure from investigators and convicted under the rules of a simplified procedure in 1937, H. S. Tymofiyiv was convicted for the second time and exiled to a settlement “for the same crimes in 1950”. In 1956, according to the results of an additional investigation H. S. Tymofiyiv was rehabilitated. Thus, the peculiarities of repression against the Ukrainian intelligentsia can be identified as follows: the opening of a criminal case for refusing to give false testimony against colleagues; giving forced testimony by witnesses; a slander; non-admission of guilt by the repressed; lack of direct evidence; reopening of cases after the end of the term of imprisonment. In order to humiliate the repressed and level the person, unconstitutional extrajudicial bodies functioned during the 1930s, whose rights only expanded over time and reached their apogee in 1938. Establishment of historical justice, finding and honoring the names of the repressed require a further archival research on each region of the Ukrainian state, including Uman. Innocent victims of the Soviet repressive and punitive system are waiting for my martyrology – doctors, teachers, scientists, engineers, civil servants, military ...

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