

# **World War II in Ukraine: Provincial Press of Ukraine under German Occupation (focus: Uman' and Ivankov)**

**Fond FR-2033; Opis' 1 Umanskii golos Publishing House**

**Fond FR-2330; Opis'1 Ivankovskie vesti Publishing house, Ivankov of Kiev oblast'**

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From the State Archive of the Kiev Oblast' (GAKO) stores comes a newly available collection of two parts: Fond **FR-2033** (6 *del*, 1941-1943) contains information on the newspaper *Umanskii golos*, and on those who produced it at the Gebietskommissariat of the town of Uman, Kiev province; Fond **FR-2330** (6 *del*, 1941-1943) contains information on the editorial office of the newspaper *Ivankovskie vesti*, published in the town of Ivankov, Kiev province.

A military-political confrontation between the Nazis and the Bolsheviks – two totalitarian systems – marked the 1941-1945 period in Ukraine, and the press was as affected as any aspect of society. The development and operation of German and Ukrainian publishing became the responsibility of the German publishing and printing society VDTU in Lutsk, which incorporated a number of smaller societies. Aiming to rebuild the Ukrainian newspaper and printing industry, VDTU founded the Press Society in Ukraine, which was in turn exclusively in charge of all newly created local publishing houses, printing facilities and other associated businesses on matters of publishing and related logistics. The society also supplied said businesses with newsprint, ink and other consumables. By the start of 1943, 140 printing facilities had been reopened by the Society, printing 75 newspapers in Ukrainian and Russian.

All in all, upward of 500 periodicals (almanacs, news bulletins, newspapers and magazines) were published during the occupation period; more than 200 of them were published under the sponsorship of the occupation authorities.

Popularity of the periodicals was steadily growing as was their print run. They constantly printed useful farming and veterinary tips,

traditional cures for various diseases, stories, poems, humor, cartoons, and things of interests for adults and children, etc. Much attention was paid to factual material and the course of military operations.

**FR-2033** contains documents that pertain to the publishing house of the newspaper *Umanskii golos*, a title active during the period of Nazi occupation of Uman', from September 1941 to March 1944 (Uman' was occupied 26.07.1941 and liberated 10.03.1944). The newspaper was published by the Uman' City Council and mainly carried documents of an informational nature and promoted the Nazi "new order." Its first issue is dated 1 September 1941. It appeared 2 times a week in 6,500 copies and was read by almost 180,000 people.

The collection has one chronologically arranged *opis'*. It remained in the secret stacks until it was declassified 20.12.1995. Included in the files are proofs and individual issues of *Umanskii golos* that carry news items and articles about the course of military operations on the Eastern Front and on other theaters of military operations. Special reports brought news about the fighting near Moscow, the capture of Kharkov and Kremenchug, and the fighting in Donbass. Military-political commentaries abounded, such as "Military Operations Outside Red Moscow," "Ukraine under Red Moscow," "Two Patriotic Wars," "The Triple Alliance Stays Unchanged" (Germany, Italy and Japan), "Why the Germans are Certain of Victory in the East," etc. Also contained within this collection are government-issued statements in German and Ukrainian; directives issued by the Reichskommissar of Ukraine; resolutions issued by the Uman City Council; a regular section entitled "Ukrainian Life," which brought news about the appointment of two new bishops, the restoration of cultural life, local theatrical productions, the start of a new school year in Uman, and the organization of schools in Kiev; a page reserved for literature carried poems, short stories, funny ditties, proverbs and sayings, many of which criticized the Soviet government and Stalin ("Stalin's

Constitution is mere prostitution – it promises heaven but rips you off”); orders to the publishing house staff concerning production routines and personnel; announcements about the launching of a search for prisoners of war; accounting documents; lists of the publishing house employees; a directive issued by the chief of the Kiev General District and by the Gebietskommissar of Uman’ about the appointment of the publishing house director and the newspaper editor, etc.

The documents of this *fond* are in Russian and German.

**FR-2330** holds documents of the *Ivankovskie vesti* offices. This newspaper was published throughout the occupation of Ivankov, between August 1941 and November 1943. It covered world news, the situation at the fronts, directives issued by the local authorities and it also promoted the Nazi “new order.” The first issue of the newspaper is dated 1 October 1942; its circulation was 5,000, and it had a readership of almost 85,000.

The collection has one *opis’* with no coherent structure. The collection was in the secret stacks until it was declassified in 1996.

The bulk of the documents in this collection are materials from the Berlin-based press center and the Service of Ukrainian Correspondence based in the city of Rovno; these contain informational articles of a military, political, economic, cultural, religious and general-knowledge nature, as well as poetry, satirical articles, cartoons, etc. Also included are reports about the battles at Stalingrad, the Kursk Bulge, Lake Ladoga, in the Caucasus, Kuban’, North Africa, China, on the Pacific, on air battles between German and English air forces, naval combats and so on. A number of articles criticize Soviet realities and Stalin as a person, such as “The New Tricks of the Kremlin Murderer” (*delo* 1, pp. 1-3), “Under the Banner of Dmitrii Donskoi” (*delo* 3, p. 214), and “The End of Marshal Tukhachevskii” (*delo* 2, Vol. II, pp. 59, 65); a series of articles under

the general headline “Dzhugashvili” revealed unknown pages of Stalin’s biography and his criminal and terrorist past.

Other materials in this collection include information on the mass execution by Soviet Chekists of Polish military officers in the Katyn forest (Belorussia); a number of anti-Semitic articles, such as “A Yid is an Enemy,” which speak of the domination of Jews on a world scale; articles that interpret the revolutionary changes in Russia as a Jewish coup staged with support of American capital and blame the NKVD crimes on Jews and portray the Second World War as a war unleashed by Jews in order to exploit the Germans and other European peoples.

The documents are in Ukrainian and German.

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