

Documents of the Nazi Occupation period of Kyiv Oblast

**Fond R-4758 Collection of documents for the
period of Nazi occupation**

Opis 1-2, 115 delo

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The most informative files (*fondy*) on the history of World War II stored at the State Archive of Kyiv Region could nominally be divided into two large groups. The first group includes *fondy* of the [Communist] party and Soviet bodies on the history of World War II. These *fondy* are well studied and their documents have been used in numerous publications. The second group contains *fondy* of organizations that were created by German occupation authorities and reflect the day to day life of the Kyiv Region population in the occupied territory. These documents are just starting to be used for research and are little studied. A special place among those belongs to **Fond R-4758, Kolletsia dokumentalnykh materialov perioda nemetsko-fashistskoy okkupatsii (A Collection of Documentary Materials of the Nazi Occupation Period)**, which contains both official documents of Soviet bodies after the liberation of the city of Kyiv and the Kyiv Region, as well as documents of the occupation authorities.

The collection was formed pursuant to Resolution No. 57 by the Kyiv Region Executive Committee of Dec. 6, 1943, "Re: Collection and Preservation of Documentary Materials of the Great Patriotic War of the Soviet People against the Nazi Invaders." The collection of these documents was kept at the State Security Committee Directorate for the Kyiv Region and was only transferred to the State Archive of the Kyiv Region in March 1964, with 42 items classified "secret." Later in 1964, another two items pertaining to the 1942-1943 period arrived from the Central State Historical Archive of the Lithuanian SSR. All of those documents became a basis for the documentary *fond* on the history of the temporary Nazi occupation of populated areas in the Kyiv Region. In 1988, in accordance with Order No. 77 of Sept. 18, 1987, by the Chief Archival Administration of the Ukrainian SSR, the *fond* documents were partially declassified, and all of the *fond* documents were finally declassified in May 1990.

The *Fond* contains two *opisi* and 115 items (*dela*) from the 1941-1949 period.

The first *opis* contains 61 items, including documents of the occupation authorities: personal records of Kyiv Region residents

transported to Germany; records of persons who served in the Nazi police; personal records and CVs of members of the German Youth of Ukraine organization; personal dossiers of employees of medical establishments; work cards and passports of people who had worked in Germany. The majority of these documents are processed on standard printed forms in German. Many personnel documents include photos.

Documents pertaining to the partisan and underground organizations in the Kyiv Region that operated on the territory of the occupied Kyiv Region can be singled out as a separate group in the first *opis*. Item No. 57 contains a collection of information concerning the activity of partisan groups in the territory of the Skvirsk,¹ Baryshevsk,² Tetievsk,³ Yekaterinopol,⁴ Vasilkov,⁵ Vishe-Dubechansk,⁶ Volodarsk,⁷ Lisyansk,⁸ Borodyansk,⁹ Ivankovsk,¹⁰ Pereyaslavl-Khmel'nitsky¹¹ and Velio-Polovets¹² districts. The structure of information about the activity of partisan groups was determined by Directive No. 147 (Nov. 14, 1947) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and contained the following elements: name of the group; family name, first name, patronymic and character reference of group commander, his deputy, commissar and chief of staff; group battle formation; background information on the group; the group's combat activity; a record of combat operations; heroes of the partisan war; the enemy's combat operations against the group; disbandment of the group; party-political work. Attached to that was information about the results of the group's combat operations, a list of group members; a list of persons who reported partisans to occupation authorities; a list of secret apartments and persons who helped partisans.

Item No. 51, *opis* 1 contains a summary of the activity of the Borodyansk partisan group as part of the Kyiv combined unit (unit commander, Khitrichenko) that operated in the Kyiv, Borodyansk and Dymersk districts. The group's numerical size increased from six men as of Aug. 1, 1943 to 158 as of Nov. 13, 1943, which was due to its active operations and the approach of the front¹³.

Opis 1 documents contain factual material about the participants of the partisan and underground movement: a list of commanders of partisan units, detachments and groups that operated in the territory of the Kyiv region during the temporary German occupation of 1941-1944, numbering 99 people¹⁴; a list of underground hit-and-run groups with the name of their leaders¹⁵; a list of partisan groups of the Kyiv region¹⁶; basic facts about the

number of “individuals, participants in the fight against the Nazi invaders outside underground and partisan groups”¹⁷.

Opis 2 documents are chronological lists of facts pertaining to the temporary occupation of populated areas in the Kyiv region by the Nazis and their liberation by the Red Army. There are factsheets from a total of 53 districts in the Kyiv region that served as a basis for *Khronologicheskiiy spravochnik o vremennoy okkupatsii nemetsko-fashistskimi zakhvatchikami naselennykh punktov Kievskoy oblasti i osvobodzhenii ikh Krasnoy Armiyei* [Chronological Reference Book on the Temporary Occupation of Populated Areas in the Kyiv Region by the Nazi Invaders and Their Liberation by the Red Army].¹⁸ The Chronological Reference Book is also based on briefings from the Soviet Information Bureau and eyewitness accounts. In all, over 3,800 documents were used in the preparation of this Reference Book, which were first transferred to the Archival Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in the Kyiv Region and then to the State Archive of the Kyiv Region. The Chronological Reference Book contains 2,186 factsheets, including 135 about railway stations and 23 about river docks.

Each chronological factsheet provides information according to a certain scheme: (1) the date a populated area was occupied by the Nazi invaders and liberated by the Red Army; (2) the number of people sent to forced labor in Germany, as well as the number of Soviet citizens tortured to death; (3) the number of buildings burned down and destroyed by Nazi occupiers; (4) the activity of Soviet partisans during the temporary Nazi occupation. In addition, the number of industrial enterprises, machine-tractor stations, state farms and the number of residents according to the 1939 census was indicated next to each geographic name of a populated area.

All chronological factsheets are arranged in the alphabetical order of the populated area as part of each district. Below the name of each district, its size is indicated in square kilometers, as of June 1, 1940. Attached to the factsheets are lists of residents of a particular populated area who were transported to Germany, as well as lists of citizens shot or hanged by the Nazi invaders.

The authenticity and legal validity of the documents is predetermined by the fact that all the factsheets use the letterhead of city, district and rural

soviets [councils]; are attested by the signatures of council chairman and secretary; and are stamped with an official seal.

The *fond* documents contain extensive factual material about the damage caused to citizens, state enterprises and agencies, collective farms, and nongovernmental organizations. In his remarks at a meeting of top officials at the Reichskommissariat on Aug. 26-28, 1942, Reichskommissar Erich Koch said: "There is no such thing as a free Ukraine. The goal of our work here is to ensure that Ukrainians work for Germany; we are not here to make these people happy. Ukraine can give Germany what it does not have."¹⁹ During the occupation of the city of Kyiv by the Nazi invaders, 940 buildings of state and public organizations were destroyed with a total area of about 1 million square meters, including the building of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet and the Central Post Office; 1,742 communal buildings; 3,600 private houses, as a result of which about 200,000 Kyiv city residents found themselves without a roof over their heads.²⁰ A special commission established that approximately 195,000 Soviet citizens were shot, tortured to death or executed in the city of Kyiv, including about 100,000 people in Babi Yar; over 68,000 POWs and civilians in Darnitsa; 25,000 POWs in an antitank ditch near the Syretsk camp; 800 mental patients in the Kirillov hospital; about 500 civilians at the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra; and 400 civilians at the Lukyanovsk Cemetery.²¹

The *fond* documents are a valuable source of information for the study of the tragic history of the Kyiv region during the occupation period. This collection of documents can be used as a basis for thematic surveys on individual districts of the region during the period of Nazi occupation, which will be useful for researchers and all those interested in the history of World War II.

¹ - Gosudardstvenny arkhiv Kievskoy oblasti [State Archive of Kyiv Region], f. R-4758, op. 1, d. 52, page 2.

² - Op. cit., p. 21.

³ - Op. cit., p. 24.

⁴ - Op. cit., p. 28.

⁵ - Op. cit., p. 31.

⁶ - Op. cit., p. 34.

⁷ - Op. cit., p. 54.

⁸ - Op. cit., p. 57.

⁹ - Op. cit., p. 87.

¹⁰ - Op. cit., p. 96.

¹¹ - Op. cit., p. 139.

¹² - Op. cit., p. 141.

¹³ - Op. cit., d. 51, p. 42.

¹⁴ - Op. cit., f. 52, pp. 98–103.

¹⁵ - Op. cit., d. 53, p. 1.

¹⁶ - Op. cit., d. 53, p. 3.

¹⁷ - Op. cit., d. 52, p. 49.

¹⁸ - Op. cit., op. 2, d. 54, 55.

¹⁹ - Tsentralny gosudarstvenny arkhiv vysshikh organov vlasti i upravleniia Ukrainy, f. 3538, op. 2, d. 256, p. 69.

²⁰ - Gosudarstvenny arkhiv Kievskoy oblasti, f. R-4758, op .2, d. 54, p. 334.

²¹ - Op. cit., d. 54, p. 342.

Collection Contents

Index

Item No.		Reel number
1	Introduction in English	1
2	Intoduction in Russia	1
3	Opis' 1 and 2	1
4	Contents of Reels in English	1
5	Contents of Reels in Russian	1

Documents of Nazi Occupation period of Kyiv Oblast'

Fond R-4758

Opis' 1

Item No.		Reel number
1	Profiles of Kyiv Oblast' natives deported to Germany	2
2	Profiles of people who were deported to Germany and worked in Magdeburg and Zella-Mehlis	2
3	Profiles of Kyiv Oblast' natives who went to Germany and worked in Yaroslav	2
4	Profiles of persons serving in the German police in Germany from "A" to "G"	2
5	Profiles of persons serving in the German police in Germany from "D" to "I"	2
6	Profiles of persons serving in the German police in Germany from "K" to "P"	2
7	Profiles of persons serving in the German police in Germany from "S" to "Ts"	2
8	Profiles of persons serving in the German police in Germany from "Ch" to "Ya"	3
9	Profiles of Kiev, Kharkov and Nikolaev natives who collaborated with occupiers or voluntarily went to Germany (in German and Russian)	3
10	Personnel files of Kyiv Oblast' natives who went to Germany and sought German citizenship (in German and Russian)	3
11	Profiles and biographies of members of the organization "Juveniles of Ukraine" (in German and Russian)	3
12	Personnel file of German soldier Bekhter Reingolod	3
13	Personnel file of German soldier Oscar Neumann (in German and Russian)	3

14	Personnel file of German soldier Simon Reingolod (in German and Russian)	3
15	Personnel file of German soldier Alexander Plechko (in German and Russian)	3
16	Messages from a German court and other security police institutions and "SD" regarding the search for and arrest of certain Soviet citizens; the German court cases of L. Grabovyh, I. Kopytko, A. Tatkov, F. Turek.	4
17	Personnel files of the Psycho-Neurological Institute	4
17a	List of Makarov District police officers	4
18	Personnel files of Psycho-Neurological Institute employees	4
19	Personnel files of 10th Kiev Children's Hospital employees	4
20	Personnel files of 2nd Kiev Children's Hospital for Infectious Diseases employees	4
21	Personnel files of Kiev- Cyril hospital employees	4
22	Personnel files of Kiev venereal hospital employees	4
23	Personnel files of the Kiev Okhmatdet Institute employees	4
24	Personnel files of the Kiev Okhmatdet Institute employees	4
25	Personnel files of Vasilkovsk District returnees "A"	5
26	Personnel files of Vasilkovsk District returnees "B"	5
27	Personnel files of Vasilkovsk District returnees "V"	5
28	Personnel files of Vasilkovsk District returnees "G"	6
29	Personnel files of Vasilkovsk District returnees "D"	6
30	Personnel files of Vasilkovsk District returnees "Ye," "Zh"	7
31	Personnel files of Vasilkovsk District returnees "Z," "I"	7
32	Personnel files of Vasilkovsk District returnees "K" part 1	7
33	Personnel files of Vasilkovsk District returnees "K" part 2	8
34	Personnel files of Vasilkovsk District returnees "L"	8
35	Personnel files of Vasilkovsk District returnees "M"	9
36	Personnel files of Vasilkovsk District returnees "N," "O"	9
37	Personnel files of Vasilkovsk District returnees "P," "R"	10
38	Personnel files of Vasilkovsk District returnees "S"	10
40	Personnel files of Vasilkovsk District returnees "Y," "F," "Kh"	11
41	Personnel files of Vasilkovsk District returnees "Ch," "Sh"	11
42	Personnel files of Vasilkovsk District returnees "Shch"	11
43	Profiles, autobiographies of hospital workers	12
44	Messages of director of the Zoological Museum regarding research, employees, payroll, etc.	12
45	Personal documents of White immigrants Yury Srechinsky, an employee of the German administration in Kiev	12
46	Personal documents seized from the photography of V. T. Krinitsky	12
47	Photographs, letters and other personal documents of the Zhulev and Kravchenko family found in their former apartment after the liberation of Kiev	12
48	Inquiries and statements of individual citizens submitted to the village authorities regarding the right to hold real property	12
49	Working cards of those who worked in Germany	12
50	Registration cards of Soviet citizens (living in Germany) who were put to work in Germany	13

51	Records, reports and information about the partisan movement during the German occupation in Borodyansk District	13
52	Information about the partisan resistance in Kyiv Oblast' during the Nazi occupation	13
53	Lists of underground sabotage groups and party and Komsomol organizations active during the German occupation in Kyiv Oblast'	13
54	Letters of Kyiv Oblast' District departments on the availability and actions of partisan groups during the German occupation	13
55	Passports of German workers	14
56	Work books of those who worked in Germany	15
57	Work books of those who worked in Germany	16
58	Work books of those who worked in Germany	17
59	Work cards of those who worked in Germany	17
60	Certificate of work in German institutions	17
Opis' 2		
Item No.		Reel number
1	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Babansky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	18
2	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Barishevsky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	18
3	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Belotserkovsky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	18
4	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Berezansky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	18
5	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Bogoslavsky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	18
6	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Borispolsky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	18
7	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Borodyansky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	18
8	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Bravarsky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	19
9	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Buksky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	19

10	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Byshevsky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	19
11	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Vasilisky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	19
12	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Veliko Polovetsky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	19
13	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in the Volodarsky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	19
14	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of Vysshe Dubenchansky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	19
15	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Gorodischensky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	19
16	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Grebenskovsky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	20
17	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Dymersky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	20
18	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Yekaterinopolsky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	20
19	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Zhashkovsky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	20
20	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Zvenigorodsky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	20
21	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Ivanskovsky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	21
22	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Kaganovichsky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	21
23	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Kagarlyksky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	21
24	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Kanevsky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	21
25	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Kiev Svyatoshinsky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	21
26	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Korsun-Shevchenkovsky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	22

27	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Ladyzhensky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	22
28	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Lysyansky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	22
29	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Makarovsky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	23
30	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Mankovsky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	23
31	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Mironovsky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	23
32	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Mokro-Kalygorsky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	23
33	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Novo-Shepelichsky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	24
34	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Obukhovsky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	24
35	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Olshansky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	24
36	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Pereyaslav-Khmelnitsky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	24
37	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Rakitjansky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	24
38	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Rzhischevsky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	24
39	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Rozvazhevsky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	25
40	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Rotmistrovsky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	25
41	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Skvirsky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	25
42	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Smelyansky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	25

43	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Stavyschansky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	25
44	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Talnovsky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	25
45	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Tarashchansky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	26
46	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Tetievsky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	26
47	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Uzinsky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	26
48	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Umansky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	26
49	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Fastovsky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	26
50	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Khristinovsky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	26
51	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Cherkassy District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	27
52	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Chernobyl District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	27
53	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Shpolyansky District and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944)	27
54-1	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Kyiv Oblast' and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944) Volume I	27
54-2	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Kyiv Oblast' and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944) Volume I	28
55	Chronological information about the temporary Nazi occupation of settlements in Kyiv Oblast' and their liberation by the Red Army (1941-1944) Volume II	28