

**THE EVACUATION AND DEPORTATION OF VARIOUS PEOPLES TO
KARAKALPAKSTAN IN 1941-1945**

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Annotation: This article describes the fact that representatives of about ten nationalities - Koreans, Kalmyks, Chechens, Poles, Crimean Tatars, etc. - were relocated to the territory of Karakalpakstan during the years of the second world war, and they were able to survive only thanks to the fraternal support of the local population. It is mentioned that the evacuated people and orphans were accommodated with shelters and provided with all kinds of assistance.

Key words: Karakalpakstan, Chimboy, Moynok, evacuation, deportation, Kalmyks, Chechens, Poles, Crimean Tatars, food, population, shelters, refugees, children.

In the years of independence, special attention is paid to honoring the participants of the Second World War, perpetuating the memory of the fallen, glorifying the names of our ancestors who showed examples of heroism through their steadfast work in the rear, in factories and plants, in the agricultural sector, especially in the creation of artistic works reflecting the humanistic, compassionate, and caring feelings of the people of Uzbekistan, and in supporting scientific research. After all, "We still have a lot of work ahead of us to learn the truth about the Second World War and convey it to our people, perpetuate the memory of our ancestors." [1] Indeed, it is important to analyze the historical experience of the Second World War and draw conclusions, to show the real conditions and life of the population behind the front lines during the war on the socio-political life of the people of Karakalpakstan.

The Second World War left a sad trace in the history of many nations. Those were years of terrifying and tragic events that took place not only on the front lines but also in the distant rear. As the civilian population was evacuated from the front lines to the Central Asian republics, the largest number of evacuees, about 1 million people, found refuge in Uzbekistan. In Karakalpakstan, as a part of Uzbekistan, the first evacuees started arriving in late 1941. The residents of our republic actively participated in the resettlement of evacuated citizens. City and district commissions were created to provide assistance, and an Evacuation Council was established under the Council of People's Commissars of the Karakalpak Soviet Socialist Republic. Special funds for the needs of the evacuees were created on a voluntary basis, both in terms of money and food supplies. Despite the difficult economic situation, the majority of ordinary people in Karakalpakstan did not hide their sympathy and did not hesitate to help the evacuated citizens from Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia.

One of the most pressing problems that arose due to the arrival of a large number of evacuated citizens in the republic was the housing problem. As is known, in the early years of the war, deportation of peoples began from the western regions of the theater of military operations. On August 28, 1941, a decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR was announced, ordering the resettlement of Germans residing in the Volga regions. Soon, hundreds of thousands of Crimean Tatars, Kalmyks, Ingush, Chechens, Meskhetian Turks, and other peoples were forcibly deported based on unfounded accusations of "collaboration with the enemy." [2] In general, in the 1930s-1940s, more than 60 national groups in the USSR were subjected to forced

deportation, totaling about 3.5 million people. Over 10 of them were mass-evacuated to Central Asia and Kazakhstan[3].

Among the peoples of the North Caucasus, the Karachais were one of the first to be subjected to forced deportation. On October 9, 1943, the leadership of Kazakhstan, referring to the instructions of the State Defense Committee of the USSR, instructed the leaders of several regions to prepare for the reception of evacuees from the North Caucasus. Three days later, on October 12, a decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR was issued, numbered 115-13, on the eviction of the Karachai people to the Kazakh and Kyrgyz SSRs[4]. By the same decree, the Karachai Autonomous Oblast was abolished, and on October 14, 1943, a closed resolution of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR on the eviction of the Karachais was adopted. Later, their resettlement territory was expanded, and in a short period of time, 14,774 families with a total of 69,257 people were deported to Central Asia. In Uzbekistan, 353 Karachais were settled[5].

In May 1944, more than 191,000 Crimean Tatars were deported from Crimea. The majority of them ended up in Uzbekistan, while the rest were sent to various regions of the European part of the USSR and the Urals. Some Crimean Tatars were also settled in Karakalpakstan. In May-June 1944, in addition to the Tatars, about 42,000 Greeks, Bulgarians, Armenians, Turks, and Iranians (Greeks were also deported from Transcaucasia) were transported from Crimea. In November 1944, the republics of Central Asia and Kazakhstan received over 110,000 Meskhetian Turks[6]. Soon the same fate befell the Kalmyks. In accordance with the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and the resolution of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR dated October 28, 1943, the Kalmyks were deported to the eastern and western regions, as well as to the republics of Central Asia. Within a short period of time, 99,252 people were displaced. Among them, 648 families with a total of 2,268 people were settled in the Kyzyl-Ordinskaya region, and 224 families (605 people) of Kalmyk special settlers arrived in Karakalpakstan, where they were placed in the Muynak district[7]. In his memoirs, the former prosecutor of the Muynak district, distinguished lawyer of the republic, Saparbai Dospanov, wrote: "The Kalmyks were settled in the Muynak district, working in fishery enterprises, collective farms, fish factories, the Muynak fish cannery, the South Aral State Fish Trust, in camel husbandry, in various positions under the supervision of the special command of the district department of the NKVD[8]." According to the recollections of the renowned figure S. Kaniyazov, the special settlers were mainly resettled in the Muynak district: "During the war years, Kalmyks, Chechens, Karachays, and even Crimean Tatars were evacuated to Muynak[9]." During the war years, about 35,000 Poles were also resettled in Uzbekistan, some of whom arrived in the Karakalpak Autonomous Republic. According to the Society of Polish Patriots, in 1943, there were 3,000 (1,249 families) Poles living in the Karakalpak Autonomous Republic[10]. They were dispersed in various districts of the republic, some of them residing in Chimbay and Muynak.

In general, during the war years, about ten ethnic groups were resettled in the territory of Karakalpakstan - Koreans, Kalmyks, Chechens, Poles, Crimean Tatars, and others. It is difficult to imagine their suffering during the forced resettlement, during which they left everything in their places of former habitation. Among them were many women, children, and elderly people who had nothing - no property, no food, no means of subsistence, and no civil rights. The leadership of the republic had to resettle them in communal and state houses, dormitories. Buildings such as schools, cultural centers, and departmental clubs were handed over for the resettlement of refugees. Additionally, in a voluntary-coercive manner, they were placed in the apartments of city residents. In rural areas, the fate of the evacuated and deported population was unenviable. Labor veteran I. Shagilov testified that "on the eve and during the war years,

deported Chechens, Ingush, Crimean Tatars, and Kalmyks were brought to work in Muynak. Initially, their situation was difficult. There was no place to sleep, so they slept in an open area surrounded by barbed wire. Then they lived in dugouts[11]."

By the end of 1941, the first trains of evacuated population began to arrive in our republic. The first task was to arrange for the newly arrived children. By the resolution of the Council of People's Commissars of the Karakalpak Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic and the Party Committee (Protocol No. 2) dated January 13-16, 1942, a commission was organized for the placement and upbringing of evacuated orphaned children[12]. This commission was instructed to conduct an accurate census of children who had lost their parents within a week, by January 20, and take measures to place them individually, using the experience of public organizations in Tashkent, organize public guardianship over children's homes, and collect items for orphaned children. The children were distributed among the districts of the republic, with some of them being taken in for upbringing by workers, employees, and collective farmers. For example, more than 900 workers, collective farmers, and employees of the autonomous republic took in children whose parents were lost in the war[13]. The teachers of the M. Gorky School in the Kegeyli District took 23 children into their homes, collected 525 rubles for the needs of the front. And the residents of the Kaganovich Collective Farm in the same district collected over 1,500 rubles for the needs of evacuated children and took in children who arrived into their families[14]. The women activists of the Kipchak District sheltered 22 children and raised large sums of money for their needs. The population of the Chimboy District collected over 16,000 rubles in the first days of the arrival of evacuated children, and in the Kungrad District, over 20,000 rubles were collected. In total, over 100,500 rubles were collected throughout the republic[15]. Children's homes were established in each district. For example, a children's home for 20 children was organized at the Chimboy Cotton Cleaning Plant, and in total, 20,299 children of servicemen and evacuees were accommodated in similar kindergartens, nurseries, and children's homes throughout Karakalpakstan, provided with food and clothing[16].

Among the evacuated populations, the able-bodied individuals were employed. Republican commissions were set up to check the employment status of the evacuees and ensure their work in collective farms, state farms, machine and tractor stations, and industrial enterprises. If in May 1942, there were 909 evacuated people working in factories and industrial enterprises in Karakalpakstan, and almost one and a half thousand in collective farm fields, by October 1943, another 5,183 evacuated citizens arrived in the republic[17].

All 5,183 evacuated individuals, including 1,239 military families, were distributed among the following cities: Nukus - 764, Turtkul - 1,172, Chimboy - 853, Khodjeyli - 647, Muynak - 491, and so on.

In such conditions, they could only survive thanks to the fraternal assistance of the local population. There was a special attitude towards the children, who were taken into homes, money was collected to provide assistance, and a portion of their collective farm workdays were allocated. Children were often taken into families, despite the traditional large size of Karakalpak families, for the common good and the poverty of rural residents. In a short period of time, over 100,500 rubles and more than 1,000 pieces of clothing were collected for the fund to help evacuated children across the republic[18]. The local population, to the best of their abilities, provided assistance, shared what they had, and provided invaluable help to representatives of the newly arrived ethnic groups in the most critical moments of their lives. Despite all the hardships of wartime and the difficult socio-economic situation, the people of Karakalpakstan welcomed those who had left their homelands, helped them overcome all difficulties, and settle in new lands.

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