

**Kazakhstan people in the lines of the World War II within the framework of  
the problem of the attraction of women for the military service**

**A.T. Smetova,**

*junior research associate of the*

*Institute of State History of the Committee of Science,*

*Ministry of Education and Science RK,*

*Master of History, Astana, Kazakhstan*

Attraction of women into the ranks of armed forces – the phenomenon peculiar for XX century. In particular, it was observed during World War II. Namely in this period the significant changes of the gender roles occurred. The issue was not only in the employment, but also in the participation of women in the military acts.

The fact that the process of the attraction of women to the war occurred everywhere differently is of a great interest. In comparison with other countries the mobilization of women on the territory of the USSR was the most extensive. The Soviet women were the unique ones who formed the regular military army. From 800 000 to 1 mln women served in the USSR army during World War II [1, 310]. About a half of the given number of women were in the military units in the war lines.

Kazakhstan took part in the Great Patriotic War as the component of the Soviet Union by sending 1200 people, among whom there were 5 183 women and girls.

Taking into account the number of the people of the country during that period, it can be said, that the percentage of the mobilization was rather high. Because according to the population census in 1939 6, 2 mln people lived in Kazakhstan [2,

450]. Military consolidations formed in Kazakhstan participated in the defense of Leningrad, in the battle near Stalingrad, at the Kursk salient and liberation from the German troops of the territory of modern Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Baltic states and countries of Eastern Europe. The names of war heroes – R.Koshkarbayeva, T.Bigeldinova, B.Beysekbayeva, N.Abdirova, B.Momyshuly and many others will stay in the memory of people, on the pages of books and textbooks. Along with them, it is impossible not to mention the war heroines Aliya Moldagulova and Manshuk Mametova who are called “Two stars of the East”.

The participation of women in the war had a various character. In the USSR, for instance, the military service was the obligation of not only men, but also women. In article 13, Law “On the universal military obligation” adopted by the IV session of the Supreme Council of the USSR on 1 September 1939 it was said that the People’s Commissariat of Defense and the Navy presented a right to take into account and accept the women having medical, veterinary and special technical training for the service in the army and fleet, and also attract them for the training session. During war time the women having the given training can be called up for military service and fleet for the lining of the back-up service and special duty [3, 126].

Enrollment into the Armed Forces was fulfilled, first of all, from the number of volunteers. In the most extensive way the women were attracted to the troops for the specialty of medical workers. According to statistics, in the Soviet army 41% of doctors, 43% of field surgeons, 43% of medical attendants, 100% of nurses accounted for women [4, 15]. Second best according to the number of women was anti-air zenith defense.

The attraction of women into the number of the Air Force of the Armed forces as the pilots was conducted exceptionally individually, on a voluntary basis. The first war pilot of Kazakhstan was Khiuaz Dospanova, heroically fighting in the lines of the Great Patriotic War. During the war in the USSR the aviation troop consisting of only women-pilots – 46<sup>th</sup> guard night bombardment aviation regiment was created. Marina Raskova was controlling it. The Germans called them “Night witches” – “Nachthexem”, because they flew exceptionally at night on the planes PO-2, because of the fact that in daytime such a plane was quite an easy target for a rival. From the arms there were only pistols, and automatic guns appeared only in 1944. In this troop Khiuaz Dospanova served. She entered the history as the first aviatrix among Kazakh women [5, 2]. For four war years Kh.Dospanova went across from the Northern Caucasus to Germany, executing over 300 flights. She was called “Wingy girl” [6, 123].

The most part of the female contingent served in special troops, headquarters, the troops of provision and service, where women-soldiers fulfilled different tasks as operators, drivers, topographers, dispatchers, mechanics and others. For instance, from Kazakhstan, V.M.Lebedeva who was engaged with the air observation, R.Zh.Mazitova – check of planes, A.Kh.Orazgaliyeva – service in the units of the anti-air attack, R.Yeralin, a special-service agent, photographer, I.Zhagyparkyzy, aviamechanic and many others [7]. The most massive character had the compilation by women of the offices and subdivisions of liaison [8, 16]. From Kazakhstan the radio operators Z.I.Lysenko, A.M.Yakovleva, V.U.Kazakova, A.P.Tsyrvkovnaya [9, 148], also the operator L.N.Abdramova, L.P.Andreychuk, Sh.S.Amirova, A.I.Bannikova, N.S.Baranova, F.A.Burdina and others contributed to the gaining of victory [7].

Before sending to the front line they trained in the women’s military formations. Manshuk Mametova, a machine gunner stood out to be the symbol of bravery and

heroism. In the fight for Nevel city she revealed herself as a courageous woman. By the Decree as of 1 March 1944 the staff sergeant Manshuk Mametova was given the high rank “Hero of the Soviet Union” (posthumously) [10].

The issue of women’s participation in the military acts caused many arguments and doubts in the countries of Europe and America. Thus, for instance, the powers of the USA did not hurry to send women to the field of war notwithstanding the fact that the Pentagon knew about the existence of women-soldiers in the lines of Europe. The Army Commander George S. Marshall conducted the experiments with the aim to check the possibilities of the American women under the conditions of military acts. For the task realization, George S. Marshall appealed to the single official American women’s organization involved into the art of war - Women’s Auxiliary Army Corps, or in abbreviated form WAAC, which in July 1943 was re-organized into the Women’s Army Corps (WAC) [11].

The experiment showed positive results. The colonel Edward V. Timberlake in his report contradicted the existing stereotypes about the fact that women are physically weak to participate in the military acts. He also noted the lack of aggression of sexual character underlying more effective work of the subdivisions of mixed gender. But, notwithstanding positive results, the experiment did not have the continuation. The problem was not in the physiological peculiarities of a woman, or in the interactions in the troops of mixed gender, but in the social opinion. Especially negatively the Congress was oriented. It could not approve the military service of “wives” across the sea [12, 303-305].

In Great Britain the situation differed a bit. On the territory of the country existed the Women’s Auxiliary Territorial Corpse (ATS) which initiated its work in 1938. In 1941 it became the women’s subdivision of the British Army. The rules strictly prohibited to use the firing machinery to the ATS officers. Subdivision was

assigned the defensive task where the air defense (observation) on the territory of the country was implied. The reason was in the social opinion.

In Germany the propaganda of Hitler comprised the fact that women had to stay at home and play the role of a wife and mother “day and night”. It happened because the women in Germany were the guarantor of survival of the Aryan nation [12, 313]. Mobilization of German women started only in 1941, but at the beginning of war no woman was involved into the industrial work, even in the front line there were exceptionally nurses-men. Beginning with 1941, women’s auxiliary troops which performed the military administrative work, appeared. In 1943 Germany started full mobilization of human resources. As the British women there served in the anti-aircraft artillery, they were trained studying all the aspects of weapon, but they were still prohibited to shoot. Hitler and his counsellors believed that the social opinion would be against it. The German propaganda protected women from the image of “woman-weapon” (flinten-weiber) – as they called the Soviet women. In November 1944 Hitler issued a Decree where it was said that no woman had to train to use weapon [12, 317]. Nevertheless, there were the exceptions, for example, women – aviatresses. By the end of war at least five women worked as the aviatresses-ferry pilots in Luftwaffe being captains and wearing a military uniform, in the Air Forces there were a number of test pilots-women, but they were the individual cases [13, 12]. Besides official limitations, the women of the European countries were actively involved into the movement of resistance on the occupied territories as a courier, conductor, spy, correspondent, et cetera [14, 5].

Thus, the participation of women in the war had a various character, as in the Soviet army women were involved into military acts directly while the women in other countries were not. The present process is fully connected with the politics of the countries where the administration did not seek the confrontation with the social opinion. Each had their own role: a man – defender of the state, woman- of

the family. At that time the man's cruelty was justified by war, war rules, and woman's cruelty was unacceptable for the society. The presence of a woman at war was accepted only as a nurse, but not a soldier. It was the basis of social opinion. But why was the participation of the USSR women at war so large-scale? The answer lies in the ideology based on the theory of Marx according to which all the citizens of the country are equal.

The declaration of the war as "Great Patriotic War", slogans "Homeland-mother calls!", "Each Young Communist must master the military defense technique of the USSR", "Everything for the front line! Everything for victory!" multiplied the number of volunteers among female population of the country.

In XX century women started actively to enter all the layers of the society, including the military sphere. During the years of the World War II not only the rise of the number of women in the army, but also the spheres of their use widened. The active attraction of women into the non-combatant troops allowed to exempt men for military specialties. Women replaced men being off at the front, at production site, fulfilled auxiliary works in the current army, were among the partisan fighters. Prototype image of a woman as a non-combatant began to change. The wars of XX century served the accelerator of the given process.

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