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**MANIFESTATIONS OF DEVIANT BEHAVIOUR OF THE
PERPETRATORS OF THE “GREAT TERROR” IN THE USSR (ON THE
MATERIALS OF ODESA OBLAST)**

– Abstract –

The article deals with the system of actions of certain representatives of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs in the days of the Great Terror in Odesa Oblast, which contradicted the legal, moral, ethical norms and stereotypes adopted in Soviet society. The article is based on the official investigation materials and the decisions of the party meetings. The main forms of deviant behaviour of the members of the Soviet state security agencies are described, including offenses, among them – criminality, alcoholism, sadism, and immorality. It was found out that non-compliance with the rules of professional ethics, neglect of the existing code of conduct by state security officers during the mass political repressions in the USSR in the second half of the 1930s were connected with unsatisfactory professional and psychological selection, clumsy individual educational work, ineffective preventive measures in the law enforcement system.

Keywords: NKVD; Great Terror; USSR; Odesa.

As part of the research topic on the instigators and perpetrators of the mass operations of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs – the NKVD (Narodnyy Komisariat Vnutrishnikh Sprav) in the days of the Great Terror, there is a need to find out the socio-political reasons for the formation of the antisocial behaviour among a significant number of Soviet security officers which led to criminal or illegal acts. The commission of deviant acts by the operational officers of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs during mass political repressions is

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considered in the works of the following Ukrainian historians – V. Vasyliyev, T. Vronska, V. Zolotarev, S. Kokin, R. Podkur, O. Rublev, Y. Shapoval, and others¹. Scientists consider deviant behaviour as a violation of social norms in various areas – sociological, psychological, pedagogical and legal ones. In jurisprudence, deviant behaviour is understood as an act and actions of a person that do not meet the officially established or actually formed norms in a given society. According to lawyer M. Kikalishvili, changes in the society lead to the changes in the norms, and hence the types of behavioural deviations, and vice versa – the latter are an integral part of any social system². The French sociologist E. Durkheim argued that in a society in which old norms and values no longer corresponded to real relations, and new ones had not yet been formed, the so-called social anomie occurred as a form of deviance.³ Continuous political and civil confrontation, economic and social experiments, artificial famine, and permanent social changes in the Soviet Union led

¹ Васильєв В., Подкур Р., *Радянські карателі. Співробітники НКВС – виконавці "Великого терору" на Поділлі* / НАН України. Інститут історії України. Київ : Видавець В. Захаренко, 2017; *Відлуння Великого терору. Збірник документів у трьох томах*, Том 1: *Партійні збори та оперативні наради співробітників управлінь НКВС УРСР (листопад 1938 – листопад 1939 рр.)* / Автори-укладачі: Валерій Васильєв, Лінн Віола, Роман Подкур (Київ : Видавець В. Захаренко, 2017); Том 2: *Документи з архівних кримінальних справ на співробітників органів НКВС УРСР, засуджених за порушення соціалістичної законності (жовтень 1938 р. – червень 1943 р.)*. Книга 1: *НКВС Молдавської АРСР, Дорожньо-транспортний відділ ГУДБ НКВС Північно-Донецької залізниці, УНКВС по Житомирській області та УНКВС по Одеській області* / Автори-упорядники: С. Кокін, Д. Россман. НАН України. Інститут історії України; Торонтський університет; Вірджинський університет; Галузевий державний архів Служби безпеки України (Київ : Видавець В. Захаренко, 2018); *Вронська Т. Упокорення страхом: сімейне заручництво у каральній практиці радянської влади (1917-1953 рр.)* (Київ: Темпора, 2013); *Золотарьов В. А., Олександр Успенський: особа, час, оточення* (Харків: Фоліо, 2004); *Остання адреса: Розстріли соловецьких в'язнів з України у 1937-1938 роках*. В 2 томах, 2-е вид., доопрацьоване і доповнене / Редакційна колегія: С. Богунов, В. Пристайко, О. Пшенніков, Ю. Шаповал (відп. ред.); Упорядники: С. Кокін, П. Кулаковський, Г. Смирнов, Ю. Шаповал. Служба безпеки України; Інститут політичних і етнонаціональних досліджень НАН України. Том 1 (Київ: «Сфера», 2003); *Рубльов О., „Викриття «агентури польського фашизму» в УСРР: «Справа "Польської Військової Організації" 1933-1934 рр. (мета, механізм фабрикації, наслідки),» Проблеми історії України: факти, судження, пошуки №7* (2002):170-189; *Шаповал Ю., Золотарєв В., «Гільотина України»: нарком Всеволод Балицкий и его судьба* (Москва: Политическая энциклопедия, 2017).

² Кікалішвілі М.В., „Девіантна поведінка: поняття та ознаки,” *Вісник Академії адвокатури України* Число 3 (22) (2011): 109-122.

³ Дюркгейм Э., *Норма и паталогия. Социология преступности (Современные буржуазные теории)* (Москва, 1966), 39-44.

not only to the establishment of an authoritarian regime, voluntarism, but also to the triumph of inhumane rules that destroyed social relations.

The escalation of class hysteria in the USSR, the proclamation of the intensified struggle against the “enemies of the people” in a legal bacchanalia by the ruling regime in the mid-1930s became motivating factors for deviant actions among various social and professional groups in Soviet society, including law enforcement. The deviant behaviour of a large number of Soviet security officers in the midst of mass political repressions in the second half of the 1930s, which was characterized by a psychological propensity for antisocial behaviour, found expression mainly in alcoholism, corruption, kleptomania, sadism, etc. The information potential of the primary party organizations of the Communist (Bolshevik) Party of Ukraine of the Oblast NKVD Administrations makes it possible to illustrate the social, cultural and mental deviations of the staff of the law enforcement agencies in the days of the Great Terror. So, in the fund 5355 (op.1-3) of the State Archives of Odesa Oblast (Derzhavnyy Arkhiv Odeskoyi Oblasti – DAOO) “Primary organization of the Communist (Bolshevik) Party of Ukraine of the Administration of the People’s Commissariat of Internal Affairs – UNKVD (Upravlinnya Narodnoho Komisariatu Vnutrishnikh Sprav) – in Odesa Oblast (until July 1934 it was named the State Political Directorate – GPU (Derzhavne Politychne Upravlinnya) of Stalin district of Odesa”, there are resolutions and directives of the city and regional party bodies, the minutes of closed/open party meetings of the State Security Office of the Administration of the People’s Commissariat of Internal Affairs in Odesa Oblast, the minutes of meetings of the party bureau of the Administration of the People’s Commissariat of Internal Affairs and the departments of the People’s Commissariat of Internal Affairs between the years 1937-1939. Taking into account the study of process of forming ideological tool of the repressive politics of the Soviet state and the description of the expressive portrait of a perpetrator/executioner of the Great Terror, various correspondence of party organs with the organs of the NKVD on the appellate matters in the late-1930s (on the whole concerning 226 persons, with the corresponding amount of units of storage), personal files on candidate members of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks), including secret employees, performance reports on the workers of the NKVD Administrations, various statements, their consideration, etc. is valuable. Materials of party collections of the NKVD Administrations (shorthand records, reports, statements, performance reports, speeches, resolutions, etc.) can serve as a supporting base for a researcher in understanding the personality expression of the character of an employee of Soviet state security bodies, his ideological, mental and cultural values, human faults and weaknesses.

Gross violations of the rules of investigation, physical violence and moral abuse, beatings and torture of detainees were the subject of a special review of the party meeting of Odesa Oblast NKVD during the so-called “Beria thaw” (late 1938-1939), when mass repression actions were stopped and a campaign to restore personnel control by local party leaders over state security officers was launched.

In the documents of the party meetings of Odesa Oblast NKVD in 1939, illegal actions and outright sadism of investigators (prolonged standing of the person interrogated on his feet; intimidation, threats against relatives; “conveyor” interrogations; beating of detainees with fists, sticks, brass knuckles; putting them in chairs with a sharp stake, trampling on the toes with the heels, punching in the chest with the bent index finger; spitting in the face, screaming in the ears through a loudspeaker)⁴ are veiledly marked with phrases such as “use of illegal methods of investigation”, “use of physical methods of inquiry” and so on. The point of party criticism was directed at the head of the 4th (Secret-political) Department of Odesa Oblast NKVD Administration V.P. Kalyuzhnyy (from May to July 1938) and other odious employees of the department – S.I. Gaponov (from June to November 1938, head of the 4th Department in Odesa Oblast NKVD Administration), D.B. Kordun (in 1938 he worked as acting head of the 1st Division of the 4th Department of Odesa Oblast NKVD Administration), Yu.I. Abramovych (operative investigator of the 1st Division of the 4th Department of Odesa Oblast NKVD Administration in 1937-1938), Ya.I. Berenzon (since September 1937 – assistant operative investigator, operative investigator of the 4th Department of Odesa Oblast NKVD Administration; 1938 – acting assistant chief of the 1st Division of the Department, and later – head of the Water Transport Department of the NKVD Administration in Odesa), V.A. Moshkovskyy (since the end of November 1937 he worked as an intern of the 4th Department, assistant operative officer and acting chief of the 3rd and 6th Divisions of the 4th Department of Odesa Oblast NKVD Administration), A.Yu. Gnesin (from April 1938 to October 1939 he was operative of the 1st Division of the 4th Department of Odesa Oblast NKVD Administration).⁵ They were accused of “committing gross violations of socialist law, applying inappropriate methods of investigation to the arrested, falsifying investigative materials, fabricating contrived counter-revolutionary organizations for career reasons, obtaining arrest in counter-revolutionary activity by criminal means

⁴ Галузевий державний архів Служби безпеки України (ГДА СБУ). Висновки військової прокуратури Одеського військового округу по справі П.П. Кисельова, ф.5, оп. 1, спр. 68251, т. 2, арк. 183-193.

⁵ Савин А., Тепляков А., „Чистка чистильщиков» как инструмент дисциплинирования НКВД. Сотрудники УНКВД по Одесской области на скамье подсудимых, 1939–1943

regardless of the presence of compromising materials” during 1938 – early 1939.⁶ These individuals were accused of fabricating a number of criminal cases against employees of the Party Control Commission under the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks) in Odesa Oblast (12 people were jailed, 7 of whom were sentenced to death by the Military Board of the Supreme Court of the USSR, one person to 15 years in prison and only two people were acquitted), Odesa Regional Executive Committee (12 people were arrested, one of whom died in prison from torture), the staff of the Chernomorskaya Komuna and Bolshevik Banner newspapers. In particular, investigator Yu. Abramovych was accused of inhuman treatment of the former head of Odesa Oblast Financial Department I.F. Senkevych, whom he forced to dictate to write a “personal confession” on 106 sheets and slander 11 people. The victim himself told law enforcement agencies about the specific arsenal of Yu. Abramovych’s means of influencing those arrested in order to persuade them to “cooperate with the investigation.” “On the night of July 2-3, 1938, I was arrested by the NKVD. The same night I was taken for questioning to investigator Abramovych, he was a vile executioner, a swindler. At the first interrogation, I was accused of being a member of a counter-revolutionary organization, one of the members of the “Oblast Counter-revolutionary Centre for the Right-wing.” And when I denied all this, Abramovych spat at me, forbidding me to rub, beat me, and when I reached the subconscious, Abramovych, Kordun and others, made fun of me. Almost during all these interrogations and insults, Kalyuzhnyy came to me during the investigation; the latter allowed me to speak only about confessions, Kalyuzhnyy did not accept any more of my explanations and forbade me to speak about them. Each interrogation was accompanied by curse, foul and obscene insults from Abramovych and Kordun. Now I can’t even remember all the words they used to call me. During interrogations, Abramovych beat me in the face, kicked me in the stomach, put a tube in my ear and shouted at me. Kalyuzhnyy, as the head of the 4th Department, went into the room and saw how these chiefs-bandits-fascists Abramovych, Kordun and others were mocking, but he did not take any measures, on the contrary, he encouraged them.”⁷

гг.,” *Чекисты на скамье подсудимых. Сборник статей*, Составители Марк Юнге, Линн Виола, Джеффри Россман (М.: Пробел-2000, 2017), 286.

⁶ Архів СБУ в Одеській області. Фонд «П», спр. 10175-п «По звинуваченню учасників контрреволюційної фашистської організації: Денька Ф.К., Андріанова О.Є., Рожновського М.М., Івлева П.Г., Папе Д.М., Сорокіна І.І., Жирова К.Д. по ст. 54-6, 54-10 ч.1, 54-11 КК УРСР». 23 квітня 1938 – 5 травня 1938 р., арк. 325-326.

⁷ Архів СБУ в Одеській області. Фонд «П», спр. 10175-п «По звинуваченню учасників контрреволюційної фашистської організації: Денька Ф.К., Андріанова О.Є., Рожновського М.М., Івлева П.Г., Папе Д.М., Сорокіна І.І., Жирова К.Д. по ст. 54-6, 54-10 ч.1, 54-11 КК УРСР». 23 квітня 1938 – 5 травня 1938 р., арк. 324-329.

The former head of the 3rd Division of the 2nd Department of the Oblast Administration of the NKVD, V.A. Moshkovskyy⁸ was also accused of “unreasonable use of physical means of influence”, and proved himself as an active “eradicator of counter-revolutionary organizations and the enemy element” in Odesa in the days of the Great Terror.

Faced with a barrage of party criticism and the threat of criminal liability for “violation of socialist legality” in the course of their professional activities, the officers of Odesa Oblast NKVD Administration were forced to justify themselves. State Security Sergeant Yuhym Abramovych connected the existence of numerous facts of inhuman treatment of detainees with the execution of the instructions received from the leadership, “Knowing quite well the Criminal and Criminal Procedure Code of the USSR, under which I have repeatedly investigated the peripheral apparatus of the NKVD under Soviet law, when I came to Odesa, I saw that this law was not observed in the regional leadership of the NKVD, on the contrary, it was broken. From the first days of my stay in the Oblast Administration, I began to notice that the detainees were forbidden to sit on a chair; they were forced to stand for questioning for several hours. During interrogation the worst street swearing was heard. After a while, the former head of the 2nd Department Gerzon entered the room (where the arrested man was sitting on a chair), and he saw that the detainee was not standing, but sitting, a few minutes later he called me to his office, demanding an explanation about the reasons for “liberal attitude to the enemy”, i.e. to the arrested... Soon, practice and methods of work in the Oblast Administration of the NKVD took unheard and unseen forms. The detainees were forced to stand not for several hours, but for several days, some detainees were beaten, sometimes detainees were thrown from balconies (the former head of the Division of the NKVD Administration, an attempt made by investigator Gorodokin, etc.), some of those arrested swelled due to standing, and it began to affect me mentally so I started having seizures at work, which ended up taking me home by car”⁹. Abram Gnesin, a former security officer of the 1st Division of the 2nd Department of Odesa Oblast NKVD Administration, chose a defensive strategy similar to that of Yuhym Abramovych in accusations of using physical methods of influence, “In March 1938, by the decision of Odesa Oblast Committee of the Komsomol, I was mobilized to the NKVD and sent to work in Odesa Oblast Administration for the

⁸ Архів СБУ в Одеській області. Фонд «П», спр. 10175-п «По звинуваченню учасників контрреволюційної фашистської організації: Деньга Ф.К., Андріанова О.Є., Рожновського М.М., Івлева П.Г., Папе Д.М., Сорокіна І.І., Жирова К.Д. по ст. 54-6, 54-10 ч.1, 54-11 КК УРСР». 23 квітня 1938 – 5 травня 1938 рр., арк. 324-329.

position of a security officer assistant. It is difficult to describe the situation in which I and other young workers had to plunge when I came to work for the authorities. Suffice it to say that I, who was sent to get acquainted with the work at the disposal of former security officer Kozakevych, did not see or hear anything in his room except beating the arrested, shouting, cursing. This “acquaintance” with the work lasted two or three days, after that I was summoned for instruction by the head of the Division Kalyuzhnyy (arrested) and the head of the Department Maysky (dismissed from the authorities), who told me that from now on I would have to interrogate the arrested and they warned that during the investigation all detainees were trying to continue their hostile policy aimed at concealing members of the organization who were still at large... Kalyuzhnyy and Maysky taught us, young workers, by personal example how to work with detainees, forcing us to scold, shout and beat. They rang several times a day, invited investigators to the office, including me, scolding us for allegedly bad work with the detainees. The criterion for this was the fact that the investigator’s voice was not heard in the corridor”¹⁰.

The military tribunal of the NKVD troops of the West Siberian District since April 21-26, 1943, sentenced former officers of Odesa Oblast NKVD Administration – D.B. Kordun, Yu.I. Abramovych, Ya.I. Berenzon and S.I. Gaponov to 10 years in collective labour camps for violation of socialist law (Articles 206-17, item “b” of the Criminal Code of the Ukrainian SSR), and V.A. Moshkovskyy and A.Yu. Gnesin were imprisoned for 7 years¹¹. All were deprived of special departmental titles, and S.I. Gaponov – the highest departmental award “Honorary Badge of the Cheka-GPU.” Taking into account the military situation and the petitions of four defendants (with the exception of Yu. Abramovych), they were sent to the German-Soviet front, to the active army to atone for criminal activity¹².

⁹ *Эхо Большого террора: Сборник документов в 3 томах*, Т. 3, *Чекисты Сталина в тисках «социалистической законности». Эго-документы 1938-1941 гг.* (Москва: Пробел, 2000, 2018), 129.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ *Відлуння Великого терору. Збірник документів у трьох томах*, Том 2: *Документи з архівних кримінальних справ на співробітників органів НКВС УРСР, засуджених за порушення соціалістичної законності (жовтень 1938 р. – червень 1943 р.)*. Кн. 1: *НКВС Молдавської АРСР, Дорожньо-транспортний відділ ГУДБ НКВС Північно-Донецької залізниці, УНКВС по Житомирській області та УНКВС по Одеській області*, Авт.-упоряд.: С. Кокін, Д. Россман. НАН України. Інститут історії України; Торонтський університет; Вірджинський університет; Галузевий державний архів Служби безпеки України (Київ: Видавець В. Захаренко, 2018), 630.

¹² Архів СБУ в Одеській області. Фонд «П», спр. 10175-п «По звинуваченню учасників контрреволюційної фашистської організації: Деньга Ф.К., Андріанова О.С.,

In the spring of 1939, during the inspection of the operative-investigative work of Odesa NKVD Administration, it became clear that other employees of the Oblast Administration, acting head of the 2nd Division of the 4th Department Mykola Mykhailovych Tyagin and head of the 1st Division of the 3th Department, State Security Lieutenant Yosyp Yukhymovych Rybakov also resorted to torture and falsifications during the investigation. In February 1939, Oleksandr Hryhorovych Schneider, head of the 3rd Department of the State Security Department (Upravlinnya Derzhavnoyi Bezpeky – UDB) of the NKVD Administration was arrested, and in May 1939, his deputy, Borys Ilyich Raev, State Security Sergeant, and Yakov Veniaminovych Zislin, acting head of the Economic Department of the NKVD State Security Department, State Security Junior Lieutenant, were arrested. By using criminal methods of investigation they created fictitious anti-Soviet organizations – “insurgent partizan organization” (65 people were imprisoned); Odesa network of the “Polish Military Organization”, an anti-Soviet group among seamen of the Black Sea Shipping Company. It was established that in July 1938 during the investigation of the so-called “Cases of red partisans” State Security Junior Lieutenant Yakiv Zislin forced his subordinates to periodically visit the Central Arrest House (CAD; a special place in the system of administrative buildings of the NKVD in Odesa (criminal investigation building) with him, where prisoners were held, and arranged demonstrative beatings of the detainees. In November 1939, Oleksandr Schneider was sentenced to eight years in prison, Borys Raev and Yakov Zislin – to 6 years in corrective labour camps by a visiting session of the military tribunal of the NKVD troops in Kyiv District in Odesa¹³. Former operational officer of the Prison №38 of Odesa Oblast of the Military and Medical Administration of the NKVD Administration Yukhym Zalkind managed to avoid severe punishment for violating socialist law. At a closed meeting of the party organization of the Oblast Administration of the NKVD held on September 3, 1939, he was severely reprimanded, warning “for intentionally inflicting physical suffering on the arrested Ivanyuk, Hes and Ivanov¹⁴, and for feeding bread with anesthesia to defendant Soroka before the court for his confession”¹⁵.

It is noteworthy that staff members prone to sadism and ill-treatment of prisoners, were usually poorly-educated and ignorant. Acting chief of the 1st

Рожновського М.М., Івлева П.Г., Папе Д.М., Сорокіна І.І., Жирова К.Д. по ст. 54-6, 54-10 ч.1, 54-11 КК УРСР». 23 квітня 1938 – 5 травня 1938 р., арк. 329.

¹³ Архів СБУ в Одеській області, спр. 58721, арк. 54.

¹⁴ ДАОО. Протоколи засідання партбюро УНКВД в Одеській області. Початок – 17 липня 1939 р. закінчено – 10 жовтня 1939 р. Ф. 5355, оп. 1, спр. 135, арк. 116.

¹⁵ ДАОО. Протокол закритого зібрання парторганізації УНКВД в Одеській області від 3 вересня 1939 р. Протоколи партійних зборів. 8 серпня – 13 грудня 1939 р. Ф. 5355, оп. 1, спр. 130, арк. 26.

Division of the 2nd Department of the NKVD Administration, State Security Sergeant D. Kordun, State Security Sergeant Yu.I. Abramovych, head of the Water Transport City Department of the UNKVD Ya.I. Berenzon had a primary education; acting assistant chief of the 3rd Division of the 4th Department of the NKVD Administration V.A. Moshkovskyy and operative officer of the 1st Division of the 2nd Department of the Oblast Administration of the NKVD, State Security Sergeant A.Yu. Gnesin had incomplete secondary education¹⁶. Security Service Senior Lieutenant Ivan Stepanovych Dubrov, head of the personnel department of the NKVD Administration in Odesa Oblast (who worked in the VNK (The All-Russian Extraordinary Commission, Vserosiyska Nadzvychayna Romisiya, VChK) – ODPU (Joint State Political Directorate, Obyednane Derzhavne Politychne Upravlinnya) – NKVD bodies since 1920) was characterized as a “weak and incompetent official”¹⁷. Even P.I. Deinego, head of the Economic Department of the NKVD Administration, who was elected as the first deputy secretary of the party bureau of the NKVD Administration in Odesa Oblast, had incomplete secondary education¹⁸.

According to the materials of the party commissions of the Oblast Administration of the NKVD, there were many cases when the Chekists used their official position for selfish purposes. Passion for profit prompted the official of the Oblast Administration of the NKVD S.S. Kushch, who needed to improve his living conditions, spread deliberately false fabrications to his colleague Samsonov in order to take possession of his apartment. After the arrest of the deceived Samsonov, S. Kushch arbitrarily seized his apartment without permits, took possession of belongings and furniture of the repressed¹⁹. An official of the 2nd Department of the Oblast NKVD Administration, Ptashny, resorted to the similar immoral act by occupying the apartment of the repressed officer and appropriating his library²⁰.

Stinginess was also characteristic of the Chekist E.M. Mokievskyy. Having succumbed to the temptation to seize other people's belongings, he deliberately did not include the arrested Khmelevskyy's own property: a motorcycle, a rifle, a field

¹⁶ Архів СБУ в Одеській області. Фонд «П», спр. 10175-п «По звинуваченню учасників контрреволюційної фашистської організації: Деньга Ф.К., Андріанова О.Є., Рожновського М.М., Івлева П.Г., Папе Д.М., Сорокіна І.І., Жирова К.Д. по ст. 54-6, 54-10 ч.1, 54-11 КК УРСР». 23 квітня 1938 – 5 травня 1938 р., арк. 324-325;

¹⁷ ДАОО. Протоколи партзборів Одеського обласного управління НКВС за 1938 рік. Початок – 3 січня 1938 р. – закінчено 28 грудня 1938 р. Ф. 5355, оп. 1, спр. 118, арк. 63.

¹⁸ ДАОО. Протоколи засідання партбюро УНКВС в Одеській області. Початок – 17 липня 1939 р. закінчено – 10 жовтня 1939 р. Ф. 5355, оп. 1, спр. 135, арк. 43.

¹⁹ ДАОО. Протоколи партзборів Одеського обласного управління НКВС за 1938 рік. Початок – 3 січня 1938 р. – закінчено 28 грудня 1938 р. Ф. 5355, оп. 1, спр. 118, арк. 25.

bag and a leather belt in the search report. However, such an illegal act of the UNKVD operative did not cause much condemnation among colleagues. The secretary of the party committee of Odesa Oblast NKVD Administration Dubovyy only scolded the selfish E. Mokievskyy and remarked that “to take the things of the arrested person is not at all to honour of the security officer!” Therefore, at the party meeting, E. Mokievskyy was severely reprimanded for the theft with a record in his personnel file²¹.

The crisis of values observed during the Great Terror in various spheres of life led to cultural and mental deviations in the social behaviour of the representatives of this professional group. In the spring of 1939, the immoral behaviour of the head of the 2nd Division of the 2nd Department of the UDB of Odesa Oblast NKVD Administration, State Security Lieutenant M.M. Tyagin caused a certain resonance in the group of Odesa security officers. On April 22, 1939, at a meeting of the party bureau of the UDB of the NKVD Administration, the results of the work of the commission investigating the non-manual relations of State Security Lieutenant Mykola Tyagin with the wives of the repressed were considered. During the inquiry it was established that the candidate for members of the Communist Party (Bolshevik) of Ukraine (CP(b)U), M.M. Tyagin deliberately persuaded the wives of the arrested the “socialist-revolutionary Borysov and a member of the rebellious squad Demchenko” into intimate relations, promising to help close criminal cases.

In the conditions of intensive mass political repressions, emotional and physical overload, the state security officers often resorted to alcohol abuse. For the systematic appearance at work in a drunken state by the decision of the party meeting of Odesa Oblast Administration of the NKVD in 1939 a severe reprimand was pronounced and a petition for dismissal of operative Ignat Rudnytsky was filed²². Oleksandr Mykytovych Volkov, head of Blagodatnivsky Regional Department of the NKVD, was famous for his painful addiction to alcohol²³. Publicity was given to the episode when in the village of Lysa Hora, O.M. Volkov, driving a car while drunk, shouted at the collective farmers, “Dismiss, the

²⁰ ДАОО. Протокол закритого зібрання парторганізації УНКВС в Одеській області від 3 вересня 1939 р. Протоколи партійних зборів. 8 серпня – 13 грудня 1939 р. Ф. 5355, оп. 1, спр. 130, арк. 57.

²¹ ДАОО. Протоколи партійних зборів. 8 серпня – 13 грудня 1939 р. Ф. 5355, оп. 1, спр. 130, арк. 20.

²² ДАОО. Протоколи партійних зборів парторганізації відділів облуправління УНКВС в Одеській області за 1939 рік. Ф. 5355, оп. 1, спр. 129, арк. 92.

²³ ДАОО. Протокол засідання парткомітету УДБ УНКВС в Одеській області від 14 березня 1939 р. Протоколи засідань парткомітету УДБ УНКВС. 14 лютого 1939 р. – 16 березня 1939 р. Ф. 5355, оп. 1, спр. 134, арк. 2.

Denikinites!”²⁴. This fact became the subject of consideration at the party meeting of the oblast administration of the NKVD in the spring of 1939.

The materials of official investigations, decisions of party meetings show that among the variety of forms of deviant behavior of state security officers during the mass repressions, alcoholism occupies a special place, and the leadership of the NKVD was constantly seeking new forms of combating negative social deviations to overcome alcoholism.

The moral and psychological climate in Odesa Oblast NKVD Administration in the late 1930s is an excellent illustrator of the pronounced deviations from the social norms of behaviour of the “faithful dogs of the revolution.” Neglect of criminal procedural law under the directives of the centre, the atmosphere of distrust and denunciations that prevailed in the law enforcement agency caused mental disorders, manic suspicion, depression among the direct organizers and perpetrators of the “Great Terror.” The state of anomie, which was characterized by the disorganization of social relations, the violation of generally accepted values, led to the fact that the freedom of actions of Odesa Chekists, being unregulated, took the form of arbitrariness. For a large number of “fiery knights of the revolution”, “deviation from the norm” manifested itself in sadism, misappropriation of property, scandalous behaviour, immoral and sexual debauchery, and alcoholism. The deviant behaviour of state security officers was due to the crisis of Soviet society, its social institutions, the contradiction between the declared goals and the daily practice of their implementation.

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²⁴ ДАОО. Протокол засідання парткомітету УДБ УНКВС в Одеській області від 14 березня 1939 р. Протоколи засідань парткомітету УДБ УНКВС. 14 лютого 1939 р. – 16 березня 1939 р. Ф. 5355, оп. 1, спр. 134, арк.4.

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