

# **Secret Intelligence Service**

## **Room No. 15**

### **A few notes on KGB. Military Counter-Intelligence**

(C-IV)

The modern history of the state security forces in Russia began in July 1918. First it was of fragmented bodies acting under military control of the Revolutionary Military Council of the Republic, as well as extraordinary Commission for Combating Counterrevolution, formed SNK of the RSFSR on the Eastern and other fronts.

On December 19, 1918 the decree of the Bureau of the Central Committee of the RCP (b) front and army Cheka were combined with the military control, and based on this formation was a new body - the Special Department of the Cheka at SNK RSFSR.

The day – December 19<sup>th</sup>, is traditionally celebrated as a professional holiday of workers of the military counterintelligence.

In the future, with the formation of the special departments, fronts, military districts, fleets, armies, and special departments of provincial Cheka was created a single centralized system of security forces.

From the earliest days special departments always operated in close cooperation with the military command. This approach to the organization of the military counterintelligence has become one of the fundamental principles of their work. At the same time was born the other principle of the military counterintelligence, the importance of which had never been questioned by anyone and which is; a close relationship with the personnel of military units, workers, military facilities, staffs and institutions under the operational support of security forces..

The military counterintelligence largely contributed to the victories of the Red Army during the Civil War.

Serious challenge to the military counterintelligence began during the Great Patriotic War.



On April 19, 1943 the decision of the CPC of the USSR the Central Administration counterintelligence NCO *Smersh* (Death to Spies ) was entrusted the fight against espionage , sabotage, terrorist activities of foreign intelligence services and the adoption of measures together with the command, excluding the possibility of impunity passage ‘enemy agents’ across the front line. The work of army security officers detailed information regarding ‘agents of the enemy’ during the period of their training in intelligence.

Authorities *Smersh* identified 1103 enemy agents.

And in total, during the Second World War, military counterintelligence ‘intercepted’ more than 30,000 spies, about 35 thousand saboteurs and over 6000 terrorists.

Many military counterintelligence became more battle hardened, ensuring the safety of Soviet troops in Afghanistan. KGB military combat capability was confirmed in the course of their participation in the anti-terrorist operation in the North Caucasus. Military counterintelligence repeatedly participated in the implementation of special operations personnel withdrawn from the environment and doing everything possible to reduce the loss of soldiers and officers.

The activities of the military counter-intelligence are not limited to areas of hostilities. Regardless of the place of their deployment, they are constantly working to identify and neutralize the intelligence and other subversive intentions of foreign intelligence services, foreign extremist organizations against Russian troops, engage in fighting against illicit trafficking in arms and narcotics, assisting in improving the readiness command formations and units. As a result, military distinction and success in the operational work, dozens of military counterintelligence have been decorated.



## SMERSH

SMERSH (cognomen for Death to Spies) was the name of a number of independent counterintelligence organizations in the Soviet Union, during World War II.

The General Directorate of Counterintelligence SMERSH; The People's Commissariat of Defense (NCBs ) of the USSR - the military counterintelligence chief was VS Abakumov . He reported directly to the Supreme Commander of the armed forces to Stalin.

The Directorate of Counterintelligence SMERSH, The People's Commissariat of the Navy , was Chief.

The Counterintelligence Division SMERSH; The People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs , Head, was SP Yukhimovich . He was subordinate to the People's Commissar, Beria.

Converted from the Office of the special departments of the NKVD secret resolution of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR on April 19, 1943, by the same resolution was created the Office of Counterintelligence SMERSH. NKVMF USSR and counterintelligence department SMERSH. NKVD.

On April 19, 1943 on the basis of the special departments of the Office of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs of the USSR, was established The General Directorate of Counterintelligence SMERSH, with its transfer to the People's Commissariat of Defense.

In 1941, Stalin signed a decree on the state of the USSR GKO testing (ie. filtering) the Red Army soldiers who were captured or were surrounded by enemy troops. A similar procedure was carried out in respect of operational security organs. Filtering servicemen involved identifying among them as being traitors, spies and deserters .In 1941, Stalin signed a decree on the state of the USSR GKO testing (ie. filtering) the Red Army soldiers who were captured or were surrounded by enemy troops. A similar procedure was carried out in respect of operational security organs. Filtering servicemen involved identifying among them as being traitors, spies and deserters.

Military counterintelligence SMERSH often not only fulfilled its direct duties , but also directly participated in the battles with the Nazis , often at critical moments taking over command of the companies and battalions, who subsequently lost their commanders. Many army security officers were actually killed on duty, command assignments Red Army and Navy.

SMERSH activities included filtering soldiers returning from captivity, as well as pre- stripping the front line of German agents and anti-Soviet elements (with NKVD troops to protect the rear of the army's actions and territorial bodies of the NKVD ).

SMERSH was actively involved in the search, arrest and prosecution of cases administered by Soviet citizens operating in the anti-Soviet armed groups that fought on the side of Germany, such as the Russian Liberation Army .

The main opponent SMERSH counterintelligence was the Abwehr, the German intelligence and counterintelligence service in 1919-1944, field gendarmerie and Reich Security Main Office of the RSHA, the Finnish military intelligence.

Service operational staff GUKR SMERSH was extremely dangerous - an average operative served three months, then caused to drop out from death or injury.

First front line counterintelligence operatives were awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union (posthumously).

The activities of GUKR SMERSH were characterized by apparent successes in the fight against foreign intelligence, in scoring it is indicated that SMERSH was the most effective intelligence service during the Second World War.

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Adversitate. Custodi. Per Verum

