

**MILITARY MUSEOLOGY IN THE PERIOD OF THE TRANSGRESSION
OF THE SOCIETY FROM 1989 TO 1991**

The purpose of the article is to cover the activity of military museums in the time of changes of the values of the society and the transformation of the state system. **Methodology.** The basis of the research strategy was the methods of observation, analysis, comparative analysis, applied by the historical-chronological principle concerning the system and integrated approaches. The use of the mentioned research methods contributed to obtaining the own theoretical results. **The scientific novelty** of the research lies in the formulation and development of an actual topic, which has not received comprehensive and objective coverage in the scientific dimension and is being investigated for the first time. Rationally, the idea is that the activity of military museums does not always meet the needs of society requires state regulation of their actions and support. **Conclusions.** It is stated that military museology during the period under review was looking for a new model of the activity of military museums, it was dictated by changes in social sentiment and political and economic system. It is noted that such a model was developed by the Museum of History of the Far Eastern Military District and consisted in providing the Museum of Independence in decision-making on the operational management of its activities. However, changes in value orientations have led to particular decrease of the role of museums in the social process.

Keywords: military museum; armed forces; USSR; society; values; transgression.

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Військова музеологія в період трансгресії суспільства з 1989 по 1991 рік

Метою статті є висвітлення діяльності військових музеїв у період зміни цінностей суспільства і трансформації державного устрою СРСР. **Методологія.** Основу стратегії дослідження склали методи спостереження, аналізу, порівняльного аналізу, що застосовуються за історико-хронологічним принципом, системний і комплексний підхід. Використання згаданих методів дослідження сприяло отриманню власних наукових результатів. **Наукова новизна** дослідження полягає у формулюванні та розробці актуальної теми, яка не отримала всебічного та об'єктивного висвітлення в науковому вимірі і досліджується вперше. **Висновки.** Стверджується, що військова музеологія у розглянутий період перебувала на шляху пошуку нової моделі діяльності військових музеїв, що було продиктовано змінами соціальних настроїв, політичної та економічної системи. Відзначається, що така модель була розроблена Музеєм історії Далекосхідного військового округу і полягала в наданні музею незалежності при прийнятті рішень з оперативного управління його діяльністю з метою посилення його соціальної ролі. Однак зміни ціннісних орієнтацій призвели до певного зниження ролі музеїв в суспільному процесі.

Ключові слова: військовий музей; збройні сили; СРСР; суспільство; цінності; трансгресія.

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Военная музеология в период трансгрессии общества с 1989 по 1991 год

Целью статьи является освещение деятельности военных музеев в период изменения ценностей общества и трансформации государственного устройства СССР. **Методология.** Основу стратегии исследования составили методы наблюдения, анализа, сравнительного анализа, применяемые по историко-хронологическому принципу, системный и комплексный подход. Использование упомянутых методов исследования способствовало получению собственных научных результатов. **Научная новизна** исследования заключается в формулировании и разработке актуальной темы, которая не получила всестороннего и объективного освещения в научном измерении и исследуется впервые. **Выводы.** Утверждается, что военная музеология в рассматриваемый период находилась на пути поиска новой модели деятельности военных музеев, что было продиктовано изменениями социальных настроений, политической и экономической системы. Отмечается, что такая модель была разработана Музеем истории Дальневосточного военного округа и заключалась в предоставлении музею независимости при принятии решений по оперативному управлению его деятельностью с целью усиления его социальной роли. Однако изменения ценностных ориентаций привели к определенному снижению роли музеев в общественном процессе.

Ключевые слова: военный музей; вооруженные силы; СССР; общество; ценности; трансгрессия.

Research rationale. Ukrainian military museology has a dramatic, and sometimes tragic history in different periods of national statehood. The initiative of the creation of the Military People's Museum in Kyiv at the end of the nineteenth century did not find public support [1, 254]. The Military History Museum of the Kyiv Division of the Imperial Russian Military Historical Society, opened in 1910, did not have the own premises, so the exhibits were based in another museum [2, 5]. At the time of the Liberation events of 1917-1921, an attempt to introduce the work of the military museum into the army of the UNR was ineffectively implemented

[2, 6]. During the Soviet period, the Museum of the History of the Kyiv Military District functioned in Kyiv, which after 1991 was liquidated, and its funds disappeared¹. The formation of military-museum affairs takes place in complex socio-political circumstances of the establishment of Ukrainian statehood as well as is deeply connected with modern conditions [3]. The experience of military museology in the era of the break-up of the epochs is also important and relevant, which provides an opportunity to comprehend historical experience of the development of the Ukrainian military-museum affairs.

Analysis of existing researches and publications. The general strategy for the study of military museum studies development demonstrates the tendency to identify those phenomena that, despite diversity, prove general tendencies and peculiarities of museums' activity. The mentioned strategy includes the works of V. Karpov, V. Mastalir, V. Kotvitsky, L. Minenko, Z. Denisyuk, O. Mokrousova. The researchers analyze the process of becoming a military museum in Ukraine. The presentation of the primary material is based on the personal materials of the author of the article and the own experience of management of the Museum of History of the Far Eastern Military District from 1985 to 1991.

The purpose of the study is to highlight the activity of military museums in the time of changing the values of society and the transformation of the state system.

Statement of the basic materials. The restructuring of Soviet society, declared by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, responded negatively to the well-being of people. The mentioned fact became apparent at once - since April 2, 1991, there was an increase in prices for food, goods, and services. The cultural needs of citizens gave way to the vital needs of providing the basic living. Such processes directly and negatively affected the activity of museums, which was expressed by a sharp decrease in the number of visitors. The data of the Museum of the Far Eastern Military District demonstrated the mentioned claim in the first quarter of 1991. In the first quarter, 195 excursions and other events were held. The number of events carried out in April compared with March decreased from 54 to 35, and visitors doubled from 5,489 to 2,877 people. While in January there were 3145, in February 3507 visitors. It is interesting that a particular tendency applies to the military servants - from 988 people in January to 170 in April.

The Museum of the Far Eastern Military District was the only one of the twelve in the Armed Forces of the USSR museums of military districts, which hosted visitors on a fee basis. Specific categories were taken for free - military men, except officers, and preschool children and war veterans. The mentioned amounts were small cash receipts, but they were significant for the development of the museum due to the funds received from visitors the museum retained an additional staff. In total in the first quarter of 1991 the museum received 12626 rubles. The primary sources of income were the entrance fee, rent of free premises of the museum, photo services, publishing.

At the same time, some current issues in organizing the activities of military museums have been identified. The problem itself was the problem of the legal status of the museum - in accordance with the Regulations on military-historical museums in the Soviet Army and the Naval Fleet, the museum of military districts was political and educational institutions that were intended to collect, store and use objects of material and spiritual culture for education of citizens and military personnel. They obeyed the political management of military districts and navy, and financial and economic support was assigned to the House of District Officers. Such a situation was wholly justified at a particular stage. However, over time, the museum became publicly accessible, and this required the development of a new work model.

The lack of legal independence of museums, the uncertainty of their legal status, gradually led to a decline in the prestige of museums among citizens and the loss of their productive activity. The change in the concept of military museums was seen in transforming them from a politico-educational institution into a cultural and educational one, the institution that conducts scientific work on the identification, collection, and storage of military-historical monuments of material and spiritual culture, as well as their use, with the purpose to form historical consciousness among visitors.

Evidence of lack of communication among military museums, isolation on the own local problems, and not general issues of the development of military museology is the fact that all naval museums had independent legal status, and land ones - none. As a result, four maritime museums accept in 1989 almost as many visitors as all 12 museums of military districts - 364,000 (excluding the Pacific Fleet Museum) against 458,000.

**Statistical data of
the activities of the military district's museums of the Soviet Army
and the museums of the navies of the USSR Navy
for 1989**

№№	The name of the museum	Number of visitors	Activities	Number of fund revenues
1.	Museum of the History of the Moscow Military District	68 200	<i>data missing</i>	<i>data missing</i>

2.	Museum of the History of the Belarussian Military District	19 338	324	336
3.	Museum of the History of Leningrad Military District	9600	<i>data missing</i>	<i>data missing</i>
4.	Museum of the History of the Far Eastern Military District	71897	3707	840
5.	Museum of the History of the Trans-Baikal Military District	66196	525	350
6.	Museum of the History of the Transcaucasian Military District	72204	483	1000
7.	Museum of the history of the Volga-Ural Military District	37840	1572	<i>data missing</i>
8.	Museum of the History of the Odessa Military District	32310	1220	732
9.	Museum of the History of the Pre-carpathian Military District	37643	542	196
10.	Museum of the History of the Siberian Military District	30772	560	<i>data missing</i>
11.	Museum of the History of the Baltic Military District	12129	424	500
12.	Museum of the History of the Turkestan Military District	<i>data missing</i>	<i>data missing</i>	365
Total for district museums:		458129	6357	4317
13.	Museum of the Baltic Fleet	53000	1259	711
14.	Naval Museum of the Northern Fleet	118240	1552	744
15.	Military History Museum of the Black Sea Fleet	192386	4563	240
16.	Military-Historical Museum of the Pacific Fleet	<i>data missing</i>	<i>data missing</i>	<i>data missing</i>
Total for fleet museums:		363626	7374	1695
Total for all museums:		821755	13731	6012

The table is made on the basis of the reports of the heads of museums during the All-Army Assembly of Chiefs of Museums of Military Regions and Navy. Odessa, 1989

A comparative analysis of the Museum of the Far Eastern Military District and the Khabarovsk Regional Museum of Local History allowed to conclude that if the museum of the military department is not independent and depends on the level of culture and understanding of the museum's role, on the level of culture of the heads of the department, their attention to the museum, which they are subordinated to, they expect a variety of successes and problems that they can come out no other way than through the status of an independent institution. As it is only on this condition that the museums will be managed by museum workers themselves, specialists, who devote themselves to the museum business. In particular, the performance of the museums is evidence of this. The Museum of the Far Eastern Military District in 1989 was visited by 71897 people, which was a lot. However, Khabarovsk regional museum of local lore, located across the road from the military museum, visited 266 573 men in 1990, and the entrance fee for the year amounted to 78 thousand rubles. Undoubtedly, the thematic focus of the mentioned museums influenced particular results.

From the comparative analysis, there is a distinct conclusion that specialists should run museums, and the level of knowledge, training, and interest of ones should define the activities of the museum rather than the presence or absence of attention from responsible departmental executives. At the same time, the role of the department is to create conditions for the work of experts and to facilitate the activities of the museum. A life dictated the need to change the approaches to the activities of museums. In this regard, the existing Regulations on Military Historical Museums were lagging behind, and we proposed to make changes.

The problems of the district museums also reveal the issue of the activity of museums of military glory of military units. In some of the museum's funds, there were objects of the time of the defeat of the German and Japanese armies. In Blagoveshchensk, in the museum of the 192nd motorized rifle division, overthrown over the border with China during the Sino-Soviet border conflict, furniture as well as items from the palace of Emperor Pu Yi were exhibited. In a word they were museums, but without any status. Here the problem issues were the absence of full-time employees, the establishment of the registration of museum items, the organization of mass-propaganda work, and so on. During this period, the idea of granting them the status of branches of the military district museum was discussed, it could change their position and considerably improve the accounting of museum funds and the effectiveness of their work.

On the whole, it was about creating conditions for the realization of the moral potential of the defender of the Fatherland, laid down in the museums, which could not be disclosed to the full extent due to the existing state of affairs. Conceptually, we wanted to turn the museum "monuments" into a museum of military history. The military-historical museum was seen not as something separate, but rather as a part in the general direction of the development of museology and historical science, but on the whole, culture, and society, as a side of the prevailing culture, its colored stroke in the bright range of human creativity.

In search of a new model of the museum's activity, due to the apparent lag behind the normative framework that regulates the work of military museums in the Soviet Army, we drew our attention to accessible sources that covered the experience of foreign museums. In the Soviet Union, the UNESCO Museum magazine was published, and we could see the main areas of development of museology and museology, supported by the International Council of Museums. On the pages of this magazine during this period, too, there was a discussion about changing the concept of the museum as an institution. In particular, T. Hoyer Hansen argued that museums cannot be limited to the passive state of collections and narrow-minded studies. In his opinion, museums should take an active part in solving the topical problems of the present. They should use not only new methods but also become institutions that are not afraid to explain complex tasks caused by the today [4].

Dominique Zammo, director of the Museum of Natural Sciences in Orleans, France, was reflecting on the effectiveness of the museum as an institution². He wrote: "A museum can be considered cost-effective if it fully realizes its capabilities rationally used and open to the maximum number of people" [5]. As he thought, the effectiveness of the museum cannot be judged only by the annual report on the work performed. It is necessary to take into account its financial status and the number of personnel that shows this work.

Interesting is his maxim that the museum is not a repository, but somewhat intact: the budget, staff, its purpose and problems, advertising, the press and television, public relations, educational work, as well as a kiosk, a cafe, a wardrobe, toilets, amenities for the disabled, parking place and, in what times it works.

Steven Wood, director of the Scottish Armed Forces Museum, located in the Edinburgh Castle, explicitly states that the mission of the museum is not to slander the war. The theme of the war should be considered comprehensively, from all sides, to examine the problems that arise during the armed confrontation and to show the soldiers in the time contexts of the specific social, political, economic and cultural conditions that are an integral part of any conflict. The basis of his view of the role of the military museum in modern states is the thesis that "the military museum should show the history of the soldier, and not glorify the office" [6].

The army, in his opinion, should not be considered outside the socio-political conditions and circumstances beyond the state, beyond the cultural stratum of history, in which it developed or evolves. A visitor, who does not have military experience and does not imagine should be interested in the museum's exposition. Regardless of whether we approve of the reason why and how used by the military, anyone who seeks to know the picture of the past must necessarily take into account their participation in historical events.

The Armed Forces of the USSR was concerned with the question of the separate status of the museum, its independence in decision-making. The issue of independent state rested on the position of military financiers, which is briefly expressed by the formula "keep and not let." It was a shame to read the confession of the editor of the Military History magazine of the Ministry of Defense of the USSR that the profitable journal has no own account and, accordingly, the ability to develop, increase the efficiency of its activities.

At that time, the protectionist policies of the Main Political Administration of the RA and the Navy concerning the activities of central museums were related to the problems of the development of the museum: the entire military-museum policy was based on solving the needs of large museums, and there were no military-historical museums of military districts. It was believed that the regional level beyond their competence and should be within sight of regional political offices. However, the problems were similar for the big

museums as well as for the small ones. However, in my opinion, the effectiveness of regional museums was higher - they had better opportunities to contact the visitor. But their capabilities were artificially limited.

Another problem was the lack of trained personnel. In military museums it did not exist since nobody prepared them. There were ten-day courses at the Central Museum of the Armed Forces of the USSR, and they took place in December 1985, a two- or three-day meeting of heads of military museums was held that were useful and allowed to exchange experience. And what kind of experience at the head of the army museum is known: it is still good if he can conduct scientific work in the interval between the "extraction" of nails and other materials. I remember how I exchanged one ton of aluminum for two tickets for the performance of the Maly Theater of the USSR, which toured Khabarovsk. Aluminum, like many other things in the USSR, was considered a strategic raw material and was allocated at the established limit.

There was also a course of lectures for cadets of the Lviv Higher Military-Political College, which trained officers with cultural backgrounds. These were eight hours of lectures and practical classes in the beautiful History Museum of the Carpathian Military District³. Usually, such an amount of hours was enough to acquire the skills of museum activities, but the atmosphere of the museum fascinated by its magical mystery. A bright lecture hall, spacious exhibition halls, a diorama written by artists of B.Grekov's military studio, well-stocked storage facilities, the placement of a museum in the park named after Bohdan Khmelnytsky - all this was a pleasant impression and remained in memory. The cadets of the school entirely often volunteered to act as guides in this museum.

Weak training of research associates of military museums can be illustrated by the example of mass-propaganda activities in the museum. They differ little from the practice of cultural and educational work, but the museum activities are much more saturated emotionally, because they are based on historical truth.

The mass propaganda measures of the museum should form a system that provides a qualitative impact on public consciousness. Such a system should take into account the categories of visitors and work out in the appropriate directions. The method also includes one-time events such as taking an oath, meeting with veterans and others, but its integrity is ensured by constant forms of work - the cycle of lectures, historical schools, clubs, societies, and more, in a word from accessible and straight forward ways - to complex structures in its organization. Complexes include the Military-Historical Society at the Central Museum of Artillery, Engineering and Communication Forces, in Leningrad, the military-historical association named after Captain Y. Dyachenko at the Museum of the Far Eastern Military District, the publication of this museum of the newspaper "Far Eastern Military-Historical Gazette", information and methodical collection "Military Museum" and others.

The high level of mass advocacy requires material and financial support, and, accordingly, the museum should have such an opportunity, because by organizing mass events on a similar level, the museum forms public opinion, influences public consciousness.

On May 30, 1991, a meeting of heads of military-historical museums of military districts and navy was held in the district home of officers of the Leningrad Military District, headed by the head of the department of culture of the Main Political Department of the Soviet Army and the Navy, Major-General Viktor Yakimov. It considered the issue of strengthening military, patriotic education and the task in these museums.

At the meeting, the results of a sociological survey of 50 museum heads were made public. Respondents showed that politico-educational, and ultimately, the educational work of museums by 80 percent is based on military traditions and only 14 on revolutionary ones. Every fourth noted the lack of material security and every five lousy living conditions.

Regarding the possibility of organizing and conducting scientific work in museums, 24 percent answered negatively, and 64 percent noted the lack of organizational and material support for research work. The personnel potential of museums was 55 percent composed of staff with experience of more than 15 years.

Whether or not museums are the focal points of history, indicators had fallen from 84 in 1989 to 75 percent in 1991. The explanation here may be that the museum exposition was built on the principle of partyism, and at that time, as a result of the policy of pluralism in the Soviet society, the inevitable changes in public opinion began. And, as confirmation, the question of whether the museum's exposure to the current museum corresponds positively, 75% answered confidently, but in 1989, 90 percent responded that. In the continuation of this trend, the poll showed a decrease of 10-15 percent of the activity indicators in 70% of museums, as well as a sense of confusion and mistrust of museums in work, which was absent in a poll in 1989.

However, the transformation of social relations was felt. Instead, it was a deformation of society, a transgression by Professor Volodymyr Lichkovakh [7, 27]. There was a transgressive transition beyond the established traditions, which led to a sharp change in value orientations. After the events of August 1991, this became especially noticeable. The head of the Central Museum of the Armed Forces of the USSR, Colonel Fedorov Gennadiy Andreevich, spoke out unanimously: "Although the policy of the CPSU was one-sided and led to one-sided illumination of the historical process of development of society, the current policy may lead to discrediting the military-museum affair."⁴

According to a research fellow of the Museum of the Far Eastern Military District Tamara Komarovskaya, the museum has developed a depressing atmosphere - "There is no work, every day you come to

work in the museum and wait for unpleasant news."⁵ As of November 27, 1991, 12 employees were dismissed from the museum, which is almost half. There was a contrary tendency to make money in a way that was loved, albeit at the expense of the museum's main activities, which could not be a priori, not activation of work, not involving visitors to new exhibitions, new expositions, which requires active research and stock work, the vision of prospects and opportunities of the museum, and simplified - to earn at any price to keep the fixed assets afloat.

Conclusions. Military museum studies in the years of 1989-1991 focused on the search for a new model of military museums, was dictated by changes in public sentiment, political and economic structure. Such a model was developed by the Museum of History of the Far Eastern Military District, and its essence consisted in granting the museum the status of a separate legal entity, which meant independence in making decisions on the operational management of its activities. The mentioned approach brought positive results. However, changes in value orientations and the emergence of transgressive processes in society have led to a decrease of the role of museums in the social process.

Notes

¹ The Museum of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, newly created in 1995, received only 323 items from the mentioned museum.

² The Museum of Natural Sciences was founded in 1823. In 1966, the museum moved to a specially built 5-story building, with a total area of 2,250 square meters, 500 of which are reserved for storerooms, 1250 are under exposition, and other premises are given under the workshop, exhibition halls, administrative premises. The staff of the museum has 14 employees. The annual budget is 2.2 million francs. The museum serves the city of Orleans, which houses 120,000 people and annually hosts 40,000 visitors. Data for 1984.

³ Has ceased to exist in December 1995. The Commander of the Precarpathian Military District Colonel-General P. Shulyak exchanged the museum's building for the apartment for military members of the armed forces. The exposition of the museum was moved to the Museum of the 24th Iron Division.

⁴ Personal records by the author.

⁵ Ibid

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