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VALUE-VOLITIONAL PORTRAIT OF THE PARTICIPANTS OF
THE SECOND DEFENSE OF SEVASTOPOL

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Abstract

The Great Patriotic War occupies a special place in Russian history, which determines the interest of researchers in the front-line past. The task of the modern scientific and humanitarian community is to preserve the cultural and historical memory of a significant event in Russian history in the conditions of a rapid process of loss of both its direct participants and the most valuable original documents of the era. The authors made an attempt to expand the semantic horizons of the cultural memory of the war by presenting a block of new sources, the so-called documents of personal origin, which allow us to reveal the everyday feelings of the combatants, their emotional reactions to events, and identify the tactics of everyday and combat behavior. The narrative-textual and historical-anthropological approach to the study of the epistolary heritage of the participants of the Second Defense of Sevastopol allowed the authors to detail the value-volitional portrait of the front-line soldier. The research identifies the conditions and circumstances of the perception of the enemy by front-line soldiers, due to which the image of the enemy and the choice of behavioral strategies and tactics based on the situation of conflict and tension in the context of the most difficult defensive battles on the last lines of the city of Sevastopol is formed.

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Keywords: Epistolary source, Great Patriotic War, Second Defense of Sevastopol, values, strong-willed attitudes



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1. Introduction

The increasing interest in the events of the Great Patriotic War can be seen as the need for the modern generation to comprehend and understand the significant historical period of our country, the heroic and tragic versions of the era. According to the latest directions of youth policy, it is necessary to form a state identity and develop patriotic feelings among today's youth. This can be done only by transferring the formed collective memory, which contains individual and group images of the past. "Memory becomes the only way to "connect" the past to the present, the only tool for updating history" (Yampolsky, 2007, p. 55).

2. Problem Statement

With the passing of the generation of eyewitnesses to the events of the Great Patriotic War, it becomes a problem to preserve the memory of it. The process of oblivion is carried out imperceptibly, obeying the "biorhythms of generations", when the experience of predecessors is pushed aside by the priorities and projects of the new historical time. "The generation of eyewitnesses of the most serious crimes and catastrophes in the annals of human history is now gradually passing away. Forty years is the boundary of eras in collective memory: the period after which a living memory is threatened with extinction and an urgent problem of the form of cultural memory of the past" (Asman, 2004, p. 194). At the current stage, it is necessary to think about the conditions and practices of preserving memory, the rules for their inclusion in the life of a new generation. Cultural memory is a value-oriented memory, it allows us to build a bridge between the past and the present, to justify the legitimacy of the modern order "without gaps and seams", to attach it to the time of the source (Asman, 2004). We agree with the opinion that a well-thought-out state "communication system, which would develop an external area where messages and information-cultural meaning-could be stored" is needed (Asman, 2004).

To remember the Great Patriotic War, it is important for us, the people of the XXI century, to know not only the "official" version of events, but also to see the events through the eyes of the direct participants in the hostilities. That is why the anthropological approach, which takes into account the self-perception of a person, his emotional world, has become established in modern humanitarian studies. This approach allows us to reveal the everyday feelings, the phenomenon of patriotism and heroism, cowardice and betrayal. The anthropological turn in the world socio-humanitarianism has led to the emergence of a new scientific direction – the history of everyday life. The focus of this direction is a comprehensive research of the life world of people, their behavior and emotional reactions to events. Studying the everyday life of the Great Patriotic War is one of the strategies for learning the lessons of the past. Only by carefully collecting its manifestations, carefully listening to the overtones of its everyday practices, we can see in the experienced time both the "great test" and the "great tragedy", and the intensity of passions, heroic acts and non-heroic everyday survival. The social mission of the humanities is to update memory by introducing new sources into scientific circulation.

In the modern historiographical situation associated with the trends of anthropologization of scientific knowledge, documents of personal origin become significant. "In many sciences, instead of patterns and regularities, the study of the individual, unique, and random has come to the fore" (Repina,

2003, p. 26). In this regard, researchers are interested in subjectively colored sources, thanks to which we can expand our existing views about a historical event, delve into it, and hear its direct participants. "The appeal of researchers to epistolary sources allows us to highlight the little-studied aspects of the Great Patriotic War, to see the events through the eyes of their direct eyewitnesses" (Kuznetsov, 2016, p. 64).

3. Research Questions

Front-line letters are the most widespread source of personal origin of the Great Patriotic War. Marasinova (2008) notes that "letters are characterized by quick reaction, spontaneity of the formulation of the most important life problems for the author, taking into account the perception of the addressee and direct orientation to his personality" (p. 72). The epistolary text, as Sapozhnikova (2005) rightly noted, reveals an astounding property not only to reflect, but also to model the macro- (external) and micro – (internal) worlds, highlighting the innermost secrets of the human psyche, inevitably speaking about the most hidden between the lines. The letter is a kind of epistolary articulation, conducting streams of consciousness. So, reading the meanings of the epistolary message will allow us to understand the motives and mood of its author, to characterize the psychological and spiritual side of the personality of a Red Army soldier who found himself in extreme conditions. The translation at the present phase of epistolary texts, a kind of narrative indicators that representatively reveal the spirit of the age, the state of mind of the combatants, and the options for understanding themselves and front-line events will contribute to the formation of a common space of experience of generations and determine the values-based orientation of young people. Only through the hermeneutical reading of front-line letters the "shared past" emerge, and only then can we hope for cultural continuity, for the deep patriotic feelings of young people, for the impossibility of falsifying the honest truth about the war.

The epistolary sources analyzed in the work were created in the conditions of the most difficult defensive battles for the city of Sevastopol in the period from October 1941 to July 1942. The letters written in the last days of June and the first days of July 1942, when one night the command and party leadership left the city on submarines, in fact leaving more than seventy thousand Soviet soldiers who had almost no ammunition to die, are particularly significant.

4. Purpose of the Study

Representation of the value-volitional attitudes of the participants of the Second Defense of Sevastopol on the material of private correspondence of the combatants.

5. Research Methods

The authors focus on the functional approach to the study of frontline epistolary culture. The combination of explanatory and descriptive strategies in the framework of intertextual analysis contributes to the achievement of the depth of study of the main aspects of the task. The interviewing method helps to build a contextual field of the studied phenomenon. In this sense, the techniques of K. Geertz's "rich" description are in demand, Providing a fundamental connection between the minutiae

of everyday life and the general cultural and historical context. Narrative analysis allows us to identify the main structural elements and dominant themes of the epistolary text. Both methods of external criticism of letters: the establishment and decoding of texts, their attribution, and internal criticism of letters: the establishment of epistolary relations, the identification of the facts of the biography and activities of the addressees, the analysis of the content of epistolies, are used.

6. Findings

The basic components of the value-volitional portrait of a personality are its value orientations (formed ideals) and volitional attitudes (the readiness of the individual for certain activities and actions, the ability of a person to set goals and mobilize himself to achieve them).

First of all, traditional universal ideals (family, parents, native land, native people (not only relatives, but also friends, lovers, neighbors, colleagues, fellow countrymen – relatives in spirit, in fate, in space) act as value orientations. Everything that threatened these ideals was perceived as sabotage, as an enemy challenge, simulating a conflict situation, which in turn gave rise to the image of the enemy. As a result, a person was seized by the so-called "root anxiety" (Khorni, 2007), which is the main motivation for his subsequent activities-actions, that is, volitional attitudes.

The collection of front-line letters of participants of the defensive battles for Sevastopol of 1941–1942 was formed on the basis of the Museum Historical and Memorial Complex to the Heroic Defenders of Sevastopol "35th coastal battery". For a detailed analysis, the collections of the following letters were selected: letters of battalion commissar of the 69th artillery regiment of the 25th Chapaev division Korsunsky Joseph Aronovich (11.09.1914, Kiev region–?. 07. 1942, Sevastopol), the collection consists of 16 items: 9 letters, 3 postcards, 3 telegrams, 2 photographs with inscriptions, the last letter is dated July 4, 1942; of military doctor of the 3rd rank (orthopedic specialist) of the 268th field mobile hospital Svarskaya Maria Makarovna (1900, Simferopol district – ?. 08. 1942, Sevastopol), 8 front-line letters were addressed to her daughter Milrud Sali Mikhailovna, the last one was dated June 25, 1942; of a second lieutenant, acting commander of a fire platoon of an artillery regiment Airapetov Gaik Konstantinovich (? – June 1942, Sevastopol), two letters addressed to parents, two letters addressed to sisters, the last written on June 14, 1942; of a petty officer (rank lost due to capture) of the 61th anti-aircraft artillery regiment of the Black Sea Fleet Orlov Kharlampy Sergeevich (10.02.1902, Sevastopol-3.07.1942 went missing / was captured in the Stalag 338 camp, where he died on 11.01.1943), the last of his four letters is dated June 6, 1942; of a second lieutenant, assistant to the head of the 6th department of the headquarters of the 388th Rifle Division Mironov Nikolai Stepanovich, whose identification is currently conditional on a number of circumstances from his front-line letters (1922, Dnepropetrovsk-19.06. 1942, Sevastopol) (one of the four letters indicates field mail 1448, the mention of which is listed in list No. 5 . Rifle, mountain rifle, motorized rifle and motorized divisions and corresponds to the 388th rifle division of the 1st formation, which took part in the defense of the city of Sevastopol in 1942), the last letter was written to his father on June 12, 1942; of a first lieutenant, pilot of the Black Sea Fleet of the 2nd aviation squadron of the Air Force Gerasin Vitaly Georgievich (1916, Zaporozhye – 3.10.1943, did not return from a combat mission), in the archive two letters are addressed to his wife; of a captain,

assistant commandant of the city of Sevastopol Gavryulik Anton Makarovich (1911, Kiev region – 3.07.1942, Sevastopol), there is 1 unit of storage-a letter to his wife dated June 25, 1942 in his fund.

The designated epistolary sources demonstrate the focus of the combatants on traditional values, for which they are ready to engage in an unequal battle with the enemy and even give their lives. In the first row of such values is the family: parents, sisters, brothers, wife, children. In the letters of I.A. Korsunsky, love and devotion to his wife and daughter are represented through evaluative vocabulary and diminutive forms. Turning to his wife, he writes: "Hello Zhanusenka!", "Hello my beloved Honey!", " Hello my dear Honey!", "Do you remember my words, Rodnushka?", "... take care of my golden dotsinka", "I hug you tightly my irreplaceable and only friend for whom I live". Showing concern for his family, the twenty-eight-year-old frontline man is interested in the health of his mother, wife, daughter, their food, life, mood: "Let me know immediately, how are you feeling? How is dotsinka?", "You have a hell of a cold there, and you are poorly dressed". Love for the family and care for it are represented in the instructions and advices to the family: "Dear Zhanusenka, take care of yourself, take care of my golden dotsinka, eat well <...>. Honey! You should be at my mom's every day if you can stay with her for a while. Do not panic in any way. Use only official materials: newspapers, radio", "Live peacefully and amicably. Protect and worry about each other", "You can go to work no earlier than 3-4 months after giving birth. Put your party records in order, transfer to party membership."

In the letters of M.M. Svarskaya, the dispositional and apprecational structural parts of the epistolary message are also significant, verbalizing her requests, appeals and wishes: "My daughter, my only wish is that you are a smart girl, grow up healthy and always be a conscious citizen of our union", "I ask my sun to be a good girl, listen and consult in everything with grandmother and aunt Rosa", " My dear baby! How happy I am that you are not with me, that you are in a quiet environment. My darling, I congratulate you on joining the Komsomol. I wish you to grow up healthy and be a worthy daughter of our motherland". "Look after Salinka because this is my only desire for her to be well", "I beg you to look after Salinka as your own daughter", – she instructs his mother and sister to take care of her daughter.

The analyzed text corpus represents the internal affective orientation of the addressees-front-line soldiers to return to a peaceful life, to a happy meeting with their family on their native land.

Svarskaya M.M.: "Don't worry about me, darling, I'm healthy, I'm not in a bad mood, I live in the hope that we will win and drive out the enemy from our territory. I work a lot. we are now in a marching environment conditions <illegibly>, but my health still stands, the main thing is the belief that I will see you does not leave me". "Little daughter, don't worry about me, I know that I am needed here, and therefore I look after myself... I still miss for my dear girl and look forward to the moment when we will defeat the enemy and be able to be together". "For me, my baby, do not worry I am alive and well, (and this) I work a lot. I hope and I am almost sure that we should still see each other and be together, I am sure that we will eliminate the damned fascists and my daughter will come to the Crimea and we will live together all three of us". In her last letter to her family on June 25, 1942, Maria Markovna wrote: "The situation is tense, but I am sure that the victory will be ours and we will see each other. How I want to see all of you, my dear daughter, and tell you a lot, but I am sure that I will wait for this moment. I <illegibly> my health, there is nothing to worry about me, I can not sleep for days and be almost without light and clean air and it does not affect me, so that <illegibly> that – a harsh environment and a cheerful

mood make up for the missing health". Airapetov G.K.: "We will destroy all this Hitlerite pack and wipe it off the face of the earth and once again we live a cheerful, joyful life – the life of the Soviet people". Mironov N.S.: "The hour is not far off when this trash will be driven out of our land and I will meet with you-my dear parents. And now I am putting all my efforts on my area, all my previously acquired knowledge, to make it better...". Korsunsky I.A.: "I imagine our meeting after the war, Honey!!! You can imagine what this meeting will be like. We will meet two people who love each other from the bottom of their hearts, who have not seen each other and who have won a complete victory over the international robbers – German fascism". In the archive fund of I.A. In the archive fund of I.A. Korsunsky there are two photos with inscriptions, donated to the museum of the 35th coastal battery by the daughter, who was born in August 1941 and with whom the front-line soldier have never seen. On the back of the photo card from May 3, 1942, he writes to his relatives: "In 1943, I will lead you through this underground world, where in 1942 we defeated the Germans as uninvited guests", on May 22, another photo was taken and on the back of it the inscription: "I will come soon. As soon as we destroy the Hitler gang, I'll come to you right away. Your Dad. I have been at the front for exactly 11 months".

The letters of the combatants record their awareness that a peaceful life and a happy reunion are possible only with the complete destruction of the enemy. Korsunsky I.A.: "The more the German is beaten in the face, the more he gets brazen, so we decided to bring down his arrogance completely. On the outskirts of our hero city, he must find his own grave, and for this we are doing everything we can". "Your letters give me an inexhaustible amount of strength and energy. It is bolder to go to the enemy, it is more destructive to destroy it". "I live and fight as before, only with greater strength," wrote Joseph Aronovich in his last letter on July 4, 1942.

In the arsenal of conative reactions towards the enemy, in addition to the desire to break, kill, destroy it, the attitude to revenge on the enemy is formed. Svetskaya M.M.: "My daughter, the only desire of all the guys should be revenge on the sworn enemies who brought so much suffering and grief to our motherland". "There are a lot of experiences, if we see each other there will be something to tell about there is no limit to the indignation at the actions of these fiends, these bastards of the Nazis do not spare either women or children. I want our children to be imbued with the consciousness that it is necessary to take revenge <illegibly> and not calm down until the last fascist is destroyed". Airapetov G.K.: "If you have a connection with Yervand's little brother, then give him fraternal greetings and let him cripple these two-legged animals mercilessly". Orlov Kh.S.: "Borik write son that you give me a promise that you will learn and learn and hate the enemies of our Motherland". To my wife: "Teach them to hate the enemy who has wickedly attacked our peaceful life. Olya! I stand on my native land and defend my native city, my native home, and besides, I will take revenge on the enemy for the atrocities inflicted on children, old people and old women. Teach your children to be the same as you know me. Be healthy, live, study, and work – for the good of the motherland; for evil and revenge against the enemies of our motherland".

The formation of the image of the enemy in front-line soldiers is based on their cognitive (real knowledge) and affective (experienced feelings) reactions, therefore, the richer the experience of real encounters with the enemy, the more diverse the range of negative feelings experienced towards him. Accordingly, the palette of verbal colors is so diverse, depicting the enemy as soldiers who are on the last line of the second defense of Sevastopol, who are well aware of the tragedy of their situation.

Korsunsky I.A.: "We are firmly holding the border, not a single scoundrel has yet been allowed to enter Bessarabia. We will beat the fascist reptile without a miss". "I would rather end this human slaughter, which was arranged by this animal geek-Hitler". "We have won a complete victory over the international robbers-German fascism". "Today is exactly 7 months since the treacherous attack of the beast-Hitler on our sacred happy motherland". "And, quite not bad, it smashes the presumptuous Fritz and Hans who made their way to our beloved Russian land". "The fascist viper will be crushed. We will soon get out on the mainland and we will triumph over the victory of the Hitlerite pack". Airapetov G.K.: "We have nothing fun here – when I was writing these lines, I was interrupted by the appearance of the Junkers, but before we could take action, the vulture disappeared and ran away like a son of a bitch". "The two-legged beasts will not be able to destroy us-the freedom-loving peoples". "The days have become hot, these Germans are being destroyed in packs, what will happen next will be seen, but we are confident in our victory over the insidious and sneaky enemy". H.S. Orlov: "Are you worried about a vile enemy?»

Senyavskaya (2006) notes that a person's perception of the enemy is based on the perception of the subject as a threat to his interests, values, or the very social and physical existence. Thus, the negative connotative field of the image of the enemy begins to emerge, firstly, due to the ideological and personalized evaluative vocabulary: "fascists, Hitlerites, arrogant Fritz and Hans", and secondly, the negative begins to spread to the nation: the Germans. The perception of the enemy as an uninvited guest is remarkable – he was not invited, was not expected, and therefore was not ready to meet him, he violated our world order and thus harmed us. As the front-line soldiers gain tragic experience, the image of the enemy begins to be filled with animal characteristics: an animal geek, two-legged animals, monsters, a fascist viper. The designation of the enemy as a scoundrel, a bastard, a vulture, a trash is a marker of the complete dehumanization of the image of the enemy, the absence of a human face and human features in it.

Being surrounded by the enemy without the support of their army, the defenders of Sevastopol in letters to their loved ones verbalize their confidence in victory, they are proud of their involvement in the destruction of "international robbers". In February 1942, Svetskaya M.M. wrote to her relatives: "I am healthy and alive, I want to believe that I will stay alive, there are many experiences, but I am sure that we will win." On June 18, 1942, addressing her daughter, Maria Markovna wrote: "My baby dear I am healthy, I hope that I will stay alive, because I want to see my baby. I have no doubt about our victory, but I want to be a member of <illegibly>". Korsunsky I.A.: "I congratulate you on the day of the Stalinist Constitution and I hope that by the next day of the Stalinist Constitution we will all be together and at the same time celebrate the victory over German and international fascism" (5.12.1941). In the letters of 1942, we read: "We will soon get out on the mainland and we will triumph over the Hitlerite pack". "Well, never mind, the hour is not far off when our many millions of a brilliant people will hit fascism so hard that it will be easy for all peoples". "Tomorrow is the Year of the war and tomorrow is the year of my participation in it. We continue the heroic battle with unflagging activity". In his last letter of July 4, 1942, when the Soviet Information Bureau reported that the Soviet troops had left Sevastopol, Korsunsky noted: "The fight is not easy, but we are confident in our strength and weapons. In the meantime, we will meet again, happy and joyful".

The attitudes of the addressees-front-line soldiers to heroic acts and the willingness to sacrifice their lives for the destruction of the enemy are significant in this connotative field. "I swear to you, my dear son, to spare no blood and no life, and to beat the enemy to the last breath". "I stand on my native land and defend my native city, my native home... I gave my word not to spare either blood or life itself" – Orlov H. S writes to his family. On May 22, 1942, he turns to his wife: "You can persuade my mother to worry less. And you can tell her directly that even though she herself knows that our cause is just and we must defend our Homeland. And we protect it as our oath says. We do not spare our blood or even our very lives". Mironov N.S.: "Dad! At this time, I am the defender of the capital of the Black Sea, an indestructible, heroic warrior city, glorious (the name is crossed out by the censor) – I am proud of this. No matter how many "Fritz" and "Rumanesti" tried to capture and conquer it – all attempts were broken on the cliff of fearlessness, courage, steel strength of our patriots-defenders of the native (the name is crossed out by the censor). (May 15, 1942). Svorskaya M.M. June 23, 1942 will write: "Little daughter, you are no longer small, and therefore I can share with you. The situation is certainly serious, but the belief that we will win does not leave me for a minute. War does not happen without victims, everyone should agree with this. My darling whatever happens, I believe that my daughter will be able to properly come to terms. I believe that we will celebrate the victory together". Korsunsky I.A. in his last letter of July 4, 1942 (this day is considered the day of his death), addressed to his mother, will indicate the dominant attitude of his present with a message to the future, assuming that he will no longer have a physical future: "We are now fighting a beautiful struggle. There are no non-heroes on our front. All as one are united as a monolith and this same solid wall we have stood for our native city and no force will move us from our place. Upon my word, my dear, to die in such a battle is heroic. I am sure. The tenth, hundredth, thousandth generation will remember us and honor us as unsurpassed heroes of the Great Patriotic War".

7. Conclusion

The work contributes to the expansion of the field of source studies of the epistolary heritage of the Great Patriotic War, in particular, one of its tragic periods – the second defense of Sevastopol. The study of front-line letters allows us to identify significant aspects of a bygone era, to hear the direct participants of tragic events, to understand how the combatants lived, what worried them, to identify the field of their ideals and values that affect the voluntary attitudes of the soldier, everyday and combat tactics of his behavior.

The analysis of the epistolary texts presented in the research allows us to conclude that the letters of the front-line soldiers of the indicated period are dominated by reflexive constructions: the expression of emotions and feelings that do not upset the addressees and give them hope for a happy meeting with the addressee after the complete destruction of the enemy. The value-volitional portrait of the combatant of the Defense of Sevastopol of 1941–1942 is formed by revealing in the epistles moral ideals (family, native land, peaceful life) and verbal manifestation of voluntary intentions (obvious, explicit expression of intentions, aspirations, demonstrating readiness, diligence, zeal: to defeat the enemy, to take revenge on him, readiness to die in battles for the native land, the desire to help the family, the desire to return a happy peaceful life, hope for returning home, etc.). Thus, the evaluative (feelings, experiences, value

judgments) and communicative (instructions, messages, advices to the family) codes of the semantic space of epistolary sources contribute to the self-presentation and self-disclosure of their authors, the narrativization of the value-volitional portrait of the defenders of Sevastopol.

The results of the work are particularly relevant in connection with the introduction in May 2020 by the President of Russia of amendments to the Federal Law "On Education in the Russian Federation", which supplements the concepts of education with the wording on the need to form students "a sense of patriotism and citizenship, respect for the memory of defenders of the Fatherland" (RF State Duma, 2020).

Thus, on the part of the authorities, there is a tendency to change the target audience, which seeks to preserve the memory of the Great Victory. This attitude was particularly emphasized by Russian President Putin (2018) at a meeting of the "Victory" Organizing Committee in 2018: "The great-grandchildren of the winners are already taking the baton of memory, and this memory should remain pure and unite our society".

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