

## **Review of Dr Arvydas Anušauskas scientific article**

### **“Soviet Massacre of Officers and Civilians”**

The massacre of political prisoners and other suspicious “anti-Soviet elements” is one of the most painful experiences of the outbreak of the USSR-German war. These massacres were carried out by Stalin repression structures in prisons as well as during prisoner evacuation when the Red Army was retreating. They did not manage to organise such hecatombs in Lithuanian prisons as in, for example, Lviv, however our people also became the victims of massacre. The killings of the first days of the war in the summer 1944 forced many Lithuanian intellectuals, who weren't Nazi toadies and murderers of the Jews, to leave their motherland where they could have been useful. They chose the uncertainty of emigration during the Soviet regime in the storm of the war. There were articles and memoirs published during the Nazi occupation period as well as in immigration on the massacre which was carried out at the outbreak of the war in Lithuania. Some of the articles were published in Lithuania after 1988.

Dr Anusauskas analyses this problem referring to the documents found in Lithuanian and Russian archives, which were strictly secret during the Soviet epoch. These documents provided with the exact numbers of victims, the place of the massacre, its time and other circumstances. Therefore, the article of Anusauskas, one could say, is the last word of science in discussing the issue mentioned above. The article also elucidates on the destiny of the prisoners who were taken alive to the prisons in the depth of the USSR. The majority of them were ‘sentenced to death’ there and murdered.

In summing up the data of the documents the author of the article estimated that out of all Lithuanians deported to Russian prisons 618 were sentenced to death, 568 prisoners were actually executed. The repression issue of Lithuanian officers, the 29<sup>th</sup> territorial corps, was analysed separately. The appendixes of the article are valuable; the victim lists at Cherven, massacres at Bogisov railway station and Rainiai forest among them.

In my opinion, the article of Dr Anusauskas meets the criteria of a scientific work. There are, of course, some remarks that could be mentioned. The title of the article could be supplemented by “at the outbreak of German-USSR war”, as well as the name of No 3 appendix could be corrected. The statement that “on 26 June 1941 at Bogisov railway station 15 Lithuanians were shot under the ruling of the USSR NKVD public commissar” (page 6) is quite doubtful. The formulation of the summarising sentence on page 9 “communists took advantage of the war” is unlikely to be scientifically correct. All these remarks are more of a debatable character. They do not change the evaluation criteria of Dr Anusauskas article as a very important from the scientific point of view and interesting to the readers.

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