

## ACTIVITIES BIGOSOVO CHILDREN'S HOME IN 1944-1954 YEARS

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*This article is devoted to the activities of the orphanage in Bigosovo. After the war, a lot of children needed help. They needed shoes, clothes, food. In the orphanage there were children of all ages. Management faced a lot of difficulties. There were not enough essential goods. However, the orphanage was of great importance as an educational institution.*

The effects of the Great Patriotic war was very destructive for all settlements of the BSSR and the USSR. The economy and the national economy suffered. After the Great Patriotic war, there were a large number of orphans. By the end of 1945, only 120 children's homes were opened for the children of the dead soldiers, 17,000 children were brought up in them. Creation of children's homes at collective farms, industrial enterprises at the expense of trade unions and the Komsomol organizations, militia was widespread. Komsomol organizations created 126 children's homes, 4 thousand. children's homes were maintained at the expense of collective farms. In the post-war years, the practice of transferring orphans to families was revived. So, for 1941-1945 was taken under the care and patronage of 270 thousand children-orphans. In 1950 in the USSR there were 6 543 orphanages where 635,9 thousand people lived [1].

In Bigosovo there was a special children's home of mixed type. This was due to the fact that the railway station and the village were not destroyed during the war, as they were under occupation. Especially the station BigosovoPolotsk region after the war facilitated communication with other settlements, which allowed to come to Bigosovo more children. The topic covered in the article has not been studied. The main sources on the activities of the orphanage are in the Zonal state archive in Polotsk.

However, archival materials are fragmentary. In Fund No. 1487 – "Bigosovski special children's home", is stored in only 2 cases, which are only a partial assessment of the situation of an orphanage in the post-war period [4]. The documents of this Fund are mainly office documentation: reports on the work of the orphanage, which describes the state of the material and technical base, the number of pupils, their provision. However, the materials of Fund № 129 – "Drisa district Executive Committee" to more accurately understand the situation with Bigosovski children's home [2]. Important are identified by the author of the record of decisions and decisions of the Executive Committee, as well as materials of inspection of the orphanage and other educational institutions of the area. Also contains information on the work of the orphanage Foundation no. 154 – "Bigosovski rural Council"[6]. This Fund also contains decisions, resolutions of the Village Council. The author has identified and for the first time introduces into scientific circulation documents that allow to get acquainted with the activities of the orphanage.

Bigosovski children's home began its work on 25 June 1944, a month before the liberation of the station of Bigosovo, it is written in the official archival documents. In addition, the building of the orphanage was located in the village of Baliny, 3 km from the station. There were no active military operations, actually as well as in Bigosovo during the occupation. And the battles for the liberation of Bigosovo held on 16-17 July 1944 as of November 20, 1945, the orphanage was able to accommodate 100 children, but there were 134 persons, from them boys – 78, girls – 56. The age division is presented in table.

Table. – Number of children by age in 1945

	3 to 5 years	5 to 7 years	7 to 9 years	9 to 12 years	12 to 14 years	Older
Boys	6	14	14	22	8	14
Girls	5	12	4	22	7	6
Total	11	26	18	44	15	20

Twenty children were subject to employment, including 14 boys and 6 girls. In Bigosovsky orphanage children were for various reasons: they were children of soldiers of the red Army killed at the front (63 people),

children whose parents were killed in guerrilla groups (4 people), children whose parents died at the hands of the German occupiers (29 people), children whose parents were in the ranks of the Red army (3 people), as well as children inappropriate to the listed indicators (35 people) [4, L. 1, vol.1-2]. Basically, in the orphanage there were children of the fallen soldiers of the Red Army, as well as children of the dead at the hands of the German occupiers.

Archive materials indicate the plight of the orphanage. This was due to the difficulties of the post-war period, as well as the fact that the number of children was more than could accommodate the orphanage, and the supply was insufficient. Lacked not only food, but also had little clothing and bedding, children in need of jackets, coats, dresses, jackets, underwear, shoes, sleeping supplies [4, L. 3]. In October-December 1945 in Bigosovo special. the orphanage was 138 children, at the end of that period in the orphanage had 133 children [4, L. 5]. In the 1st quarter of 1946 there were 133 children in the orphanage, at the end of the reporting period there were 134 children. In the 2nd quarter of 1946 there were 134 children in the orphanage, at the end of the reporting period there were 123 children [4, L. 7-8]. In the extract from the Protocol № 2 of the Executive Committee of the Drissa district Council of people's deputies, dated 21 November 1945 indicated that Balinsky (Bigosovski) children's home needs to prepare for the winter, as the test period, it was not prepared.

Based on this statement, you can learn that the room for children is prepared only for 80 – 90 people, while the children at this time were 135 people. The rest of the children were accommodated in a private house, which was not equipped for this purpose. The building of the former outpost, which was supposed to accommodate children, was also not equipped, but adapted for a cattle breeder. Besides, children slept on two on a bed and even on the general plank beds, bedside tables near beds weren't. The girls' hostel has not been renovated. The orphanage was not provided with bedding, mattresses were short and required replacement, straw stuffed back in 1944, sheets one change, and towels and was not at all. Children were also not provided with underwear and warm clothing, and only younger children had shoes, and more than 30 pairs of shoes were not enough for older children. The same situation was with boots, winter hats and coats. As for living conditions, they were just as terrible. The bath was both a laundry and a cattle kitchen, which created unsanitary conditions. In addition, after the typhoid epidemic, 25 children were infected with head lichen, but the management of the orphanage did not take serious measures for the treatment. The orphanage is also not fully provided with food: only 6 tons of potatoes were harvested and 5 tons from the farm, there were frequent interruptions in meat, which must be present in the diet of children. For the winter heating season the orphanage was not provided with firewood, there was not a single cubic meter of harvested and exported firewood [6, l. 34, vol.1-2].

Especially difficult in the second half of the 1940s was the preparation of the orphanage for the winter period. This is noted not only in the reports of the orphanage, but also in the decisions of the Executive Committee of the Drissensky district Council. In a decision dated 3 October 1944 "On the preparation of the building of the orphanage for the winter season, in Bigosovo village Council Drissensky district" States that the building which houses the orphanage for the winter season unprepared. The building was in need of repair, namely roof, furnace and insulation. Children of school and preschool nursery age were placed in one common room. Such as the orphanage is not allowed to place children, but also to carry out the educational process [2, L. 56, vol.1-2].

In the decision of the Executive Committee of the Drissen District Council of deputies of workers of February 4, 1945 "on the state of Bigosovsky orphanage" it is said that the sanitary condition of the orphanage is not satisfactory, there were cases of lice in children, scabies, as well as the disease of typhus. Also, the district health organization was not interested in the state of the orphanage. Children's home instead of bread could give out the grain, untimely to give out products. Regional trade organization also did not control the distribution of bread, food and manufactured goods to the orphanage [3, L. 35, vol.1-2].

To provide children with the most necessary – food, there were not enough vegetables obtained from the farm, as well as livestock products. As of November 20, 1945, the orphanage had 10,50 hectares of land, including arable and 7.55 hectares, hay – 0.90 hectares, the garden is 0,50 hectares, the garden – of 1.55 ha. Also, the orphanage had 3 horses, 3 cows, 3 heifers, 3 pigs, 4 sheep. In addition, from the farm was received potatoes – 15630, cabbages – 9690, beets – 3030, other vegetables – 1260, barleys – 500. The plan for 1946 to provide the orphanage with food needed to sow winter crops of 0.50 hectares, potatoes – 4 hectares, barleys – 1.5 hectares, oats – 1,60 ha, cabbages – 0.50 hectare, beets – 0,50 ha, other vegetables – 0,50 ha [4, L. 2, vol.1-2]. But Bigosovski orphanage received food not only from their own farms, but also from Polotsk trade department. Thus, the application on the demand of potatoes and vegetables on the 1948-1949 year for the inmates of the orphanage, says that they need 25 tons of potatoes, 5 200 tons of vegetables, including onions 0.2 tons [5, L. 10].

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The local population tried to help the orphanage to improve its situation. So at the General meeting of the collective farm "Precepts of Ilyich" adopted a resolution of December 19, 1945, according to which the collective farm wanted to transfer 20 hectares of land under the farm orphanage. However, the Executive Committee of the District Council of deputies of workers by its decision of January 23, 1947 canceled this decision, as it violated the Charter of the agricultural cooperative, that is, the land owned by the collective farm, could not be transferred to the orphanage, as it was in use of all employees of the collective farm. But according to this decision, the regional land organization was supposed to take 20 hectares of land Bigosovo children's home of the free land fund on-site Bigosovo village Council [7, L. 27].

Position Bigosovo the orphanage has improved only in the early 1950s. In the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee Bigosovo rural Council of people's deputies, dated 12 August 1952 it was noted that the work in the orphanage was set satisfactorily adhered to sanitation, both indoors and in the yard. The room was fully equipped and repaired, firewood was prepared, pupils were provided with food, shoes and clothes. Children are taught the skills, but lacked decoration of the premises, and was not organized Amateur clubs [8, l. 75-76].

Thus, the Bigos special children's home existed from June 1944 to the second half of the 1950s. It was a mixed-type children's home, which was dominated by the children of the fallen soldiers of the Red Army, as well as the children of the dead at the hands of the Nazis. Bigosowski orphanage was in pretty horrible conditions, was Packed, which was experiencing shortage of places for pupils, as well as necessities. After the end of the war, it was difficult for the local authorities to solve this problem, as the national economy in the area required restoration. In this regard, the orphanage was helped by regional trade organization located after the war in Polotsk, Bigosovo civil engineering, as well as the collective farm "Precepts of Ilyich". The fragmentary nature of archival materials does not allow to fully restore all aspects of the existence of the orphanage. The topic requires the further search for sources and their study.

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