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Labor heroic deed of medicine specialists during the Great Patriotic War in the town of Berezniki Molotov Region

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ABSTRACT. The article difficult period of evacuation of the population, industrial enterprises, and military hospitals to a young socialist town of Berezniki, Molotov Region (since 1957 — Perm Region, since 2005 — Perm Territory), is considered, today it is the second town in terms of population and socio-economic potential of Western Ural Region (after the regional center of Perm). The production of products for the front is shown, often in emergency mode, with the widespread use of female and child labor, including in hazardous industries, which contributed to the victory of the Soviet people over fascism, but at the same time, the burden on medical personnel associated with increased injury rates and exhaustion of workers who arrived in the town to treat wounded soldiers from the front. Based on archival documents, difficult working conditions, high rates of injuries at work, unsatisfactory living conditions and poor nutrition are described, which negatively affected the health of workers and the entire population of the town. The invaluable contribution of a surgeon, head of evacuation hospital No. 3143 A.P. Noskov in the organization of the healthcare system in Northern Kama Region during the most difficult war years is presented, he trained highly qualified medical personnel in the deep Ural rear, which contributed to the preservation of the health of both the town residents and the return to duty of wounded soldiers, of whom more than 10 thousand people arrived in Berezniki. Despite the shortage of medical personnel, medicines, and special equipment, in 1941–1945 effective treatment was carried out for local residents, thousands of evacuees, and wounded soldiers of the Red Army in one of the largest towns of Perm Kama Region.

KEYWORDS: young socialist town, evacuation, working and living conditions, evacuation hospitals, medical personnel, treatment of wounded, memory

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Трудовой подвиг медиков в годы Великой Отечественной войны в городе Березники Молотовской области

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РЕЗЮМЕ. В статье рассматривается сложный период эвакуации населения, промышленных предприятий, военных госпиталей в молодой социалистический г. Березники Молотовской области (с 1957 г. — Пермская область, с 2005 г. — Пермский край), в наши дни — второй по численности и социально-экономическому потенциалу город Западного Урала (после краевого центра г. Перми). Показан выпуск продукции для фронта, часто в авральном режиме, с широким использованием женского и детского труда, в том числе и на вредных производствах, что способствовало победе советского народа над фашизмом, но при этом в военные годы значительно увеличивалась нагрузка на медицинский персонал, связанная с повышенным травматизмом, истощением работников, поступившими в город для лечения ранеными бойцами с фронта. На основе архивных документов описаны тяжелые условия труда, высокий травматизм на производстве, неудовлетворительные жилищные условия и скудное питание, что негативно сказывалось на здоровье трудящихся, всего населения города. Представлен неоценимый вклад врача-хирурга, начальника эвакогоспиталя № 3143 А.П. Носкова в дело организации системы здравоохранения в Северном Прикамье в тяжелейшие военные годы, подготовка им высококлассных медицинских кадров в глубоком уральском тылу, что способствовало сохранению здоровья как жителей города, так и возвращению в строй раненых бойцов, которых прибыло в г. Березники свыше 10 тыс. человек. Несмотря на дефицит медицинских кадров, медикаментов, спецоборудования, в 1941–1945 гг. было осуществлено эффективное лечение местных жителей, тысяч эвакуированных, раненых бойцов Рабоче-крестьянской Красной армии в крупнейшем городе Пермского Прикамья.

КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА: молодой социалистический город, эвакуация, условия труда и быта, эвакогоспитали, медицинские кадры, лечение раненых, память

After discovery of the world's largest deposit of potassium-magnesium salts in Verkhnekamsk in 1925, within the framework of the industrialization program, which envisaged a forced increase in the industrial potential of the USSR, it was decided to build the Berezniki Chemical Combine (BCC), which became the largest construction project of the 1st Five-Year Plan (the main industry was chemical and defense ones)¹ [1].

On March 20, 1932, a young socialist town of Berezniki was formed by uniting small settlements where the BCC builders lived [2, 3].

By the beginning of the Great Patriotic War Berezniki was quite a large settlement, even by standards of that time. It was a significant industrial and cultural center, where people of different nationalities lived [4]. According to the All-Union census of the USSR in 1939, 51,286 people lived in Berezniki. Besides, a significant share of population in small settlements near Berezniki worked at the enterprises of Berezniki.

In 1940, prior to war, after the bulky Berezniki Chemical Combine was reorganized (which had become difficult to manage), a few enterprises were established and successfully operated on its basis: K.E. Voroshilov State Berezniki Nitrogen and Fertilizer Plant, Berezniki Soda Plant, Chemical Plant No. 237, Thermal Power Plant (TPP), Berezniksol Trust, as well as enterprises of local industry and industrial cooperation.

There were built social and cultural facilities such as the first in Perm Prikamye sound movie theater "Avangard", Lenin House of Culture, city garden, stadium, city library. They operated and developed quite successfully. There were 20 trade union libraries, a drama theater, 6 clubs with amateur creative groups (choir, brass music orchestra, piano school, ballet group, Tatar-Bashkir society, etc.), 8 baths in Berezniki.

Graduates were trained in following educational systems: chemical-technological school, medical assistant-midwife school, 22 general education schools, 4 incomplete secondary schools for adults, 47 schools for liquidation of illiteracy (literacy project).

In Berezniki there were 7 community health care centers, an outpatient clinic, tuberculosis clinic, 2 night tuberculosis sanatoriums, 2 consult centers, a venereologic clinic, a maternity

hospital, Ogurda rest house (in a pine forest on the right bank of the Kama River), a sanatorium with salt baths.

In March, 1941 the House of communication (main post office) went into operation, and housing stock of the city amounted to 350 thousand m² (250 thousand m² — urban sector and 100 thousand m² — private sector).

Naturally, there were enough problems in the city. Only on January 1, 1935 Berezniki abolished cards for food products (bread, flour, cereals) and a wide sale of these products was established.

Since January 1, 1939 a bus service to a large, neighboring, industrial town was opened: Solikamsk — Berezniki — Solikamsk (25 km) [5], but there were also difficulties. In January 1939 Berezniki City Council of People's Deputies adopted a resolution to combat child homelessness. Overall, the situation was not worse than in other Soviet cities of similar type of that pre-war time.

When the Great Patriotic War began, despite the developed infrastructure, Berezniki had to endure very difficult years [6], as the mass evacuation of people and enterprises from the west to the east began, and the city received more than 10 thousand wounded soldiers for treatment in the evacuation hospitals established in the town.

After the war was declared on June 22, 1941, 288 citizens immediately applied to the city military enlistment office to enlist, and in 1941–1945 a total number of 12 thousand residents of Berezniki went to the front, 8 thousand of them did not return from the battlefield ([7], p. 4; 17 Berezniki residents became Heroes of the Soviet Union) [8]. In other words, during the war years there was a significant outflow of labor resources.

It should be noted here, in 2018, the municipalities "Berezniki Town" and "Usolsky Municipal District" of the Perm Krai became a single municipality — "Berezniki Urban District" [9]. According to data from 1995, 6,500 people were drafted to the front during the Great Patriotic War from the town of Usolye and Usolsky District, more than 3,000 of whom died. In 1946–1947 more than 1200 residents of Usolye district were awarded medals "For valorous labor in the Great Patriotic War of 1941–1945". [10]. Although in those years the town of Usolye was located on the opposite side of the city. Usolye is located on the right bank of the Kama River

¹ The article is published in the author's edition.

on the opposite bank from Berezniki. A significant part of residents in Usolye and Usolsky district worked at enterprises, organizations and institutions of Berezniki.

Despite mobilization, the population of Berezniki grew considerably during the war, as the town received about 30 thousand evacuees from Ukraine, Belarus, central regions of Russia, mobilized and labor migrants from the Komi District, Namangan, Ryazan, Kalinin, Kirov, Leningrad, Zaporozhye, Dnepropetrovsk, Krasnodar regions, Altai Territory and Kazakhstan.

Besides the equipment, Berezniki received specialists from the Leningrad Mechanical Plant, the Petrovsky Metalworking Plant in Odessa, the Stalinogorsk and Rubizhan chemical plants, the Donetsk and Slavyansk Soda Plants, the Gorlovka Azotototukov and Dneprovsk Magnesium Plants, and the Shkiryatov Moscow Garment Factory named after Shkiryatov.

Evacuated workers and employees, who arrived in Berezniki, lived in “compacted” urban housing, private sector (Permyakovo, Chupino, Yeremina, Semenniki villages), temporary settlements (Berezniki Magnesium Plant), Chkalovo settlement, as well as in social and cultural facilities: City Circus (1,000 people), school building of Zayachya Gorka settlement (500 people), club of Lyonva settlement (300 people), basement of house at 28 Chelyuskintsev St. (100 people) and many others.

City authorities took care of thousands of citizens who arrived in Berezniki during the war years (resettlement, food, employment). At the end of 1942 alone, more than 10 thousand workers, evacuated and mobilized by Narkostroy, arrived in the town and had to be resettled somewhere within a week. And the local authorities solved the problem.

At the same time, the workload increased significantly for health care workers as well, because evacuees and mobilized workers often arrived sick. Among those who arrived there were patients with measles, scarlet fever, pediculosis, dysentery... Echelons of arrivals brought typhus to the town, and Berezniki medics had to make a lot of effort to prevent an epidemic.

Disease outbreaks were constantly expected during wartime, so the medical service in Berezniki regularly treated dormitories, barracks and dugouts. A special epidemic fund of soap and combs was created, there was a strict quarantine and treatment of all new arrivals.

It can be stated: sanitary and epidemic protection in Berezniki worked very well during the war, despite the fact that in June–August 1941 a number of doctors were drafted into the army.

On August 6, 1941 the tuberculosis clinic in Berezniki was closed, and consultations were transferred to a hospital outpatient clinic, but due to the growing number of tuberculosis patients, in 1943 an office was organized in the outpatient clinic, and in 1944 there was organized consultations for children [11].

Working and living conditions during the war years were relegated to the background, which increased traumatism, led to exhaustion of physical and moral forces of workers and employees, and Berezniki contributed very much to the victory, as chemical products were always “dual-purpose” products. Of course, the chemical industry is a harmful production, which negatively affects humans (general toxic, irritating, sensitizing, carcinogenic, and mutagenic factors), which requires increased attention of medics.

Men left for the front were replaced at enterprises by women and teenagers (50 and 17% respectively), whose physical condition was, of course, weaker than men’s one. According to Maria Prokopyevna Nozdrevatykh, head of blasting operations, a considerable number of women and teenagers worked as miners even when the mine at Berezniki-1 was put into operation on May 1, 1944¹.

A.G. Akinshina, a labor veteran of BKK-1, who herself joined the mine at the age of 17, recalled that women pile drivers loaded 15–20 tons of ore per shift with shovels, manually brought wagons to a shaft (there was no electric traction) and sometimes worked for 12–14 hours².

N.A. Gushchina, a labor veteran of the K.E. Voroshilov State Berezniki Nitrogen and Fertilizer Plant (today — the Berezniki Azot Branch of Uralchem Chemical Company, OJSC), said: “...the shop was full of boys and girls evacuated from the western regions who

¹ Memories of labor veteran M.P. Nozdrevatykh. Corporate Museum (Museum and Exhibition Center) of PJSC Uralkali. Inventory No. 321. F. 56–12. “Cycle of historical radio programs”.

² Memories of the labor veteran A.G. Akinshina. Corporate Museum (Museum and Exhibition Center) of PJSC Uralkali. Inventory No. 357. F. 91–13. “Cycle of historical radio programs”.

came to us, you might say, in their mother's clothes. Many also have indelible mental traumas: the war has already deprived them both of shelter and parents. I remember such a case. We received a signal to reduce load in ammonia production. I went to a water station to check how the driver reacted to this signal. I saw my driver, thirteen-year-old Verochka Podelnyuk (now Titova), standing there with her head down, weeping bitterly. It turns out that Vera went to work without stockings and froze her feet. The next day I brought her my stockings, and the girl perked up..."¹.

It may be noted that during the Great Patriotic War the K.E. Voroshilov nitrogen-fertilizer plant (No. 237) was one of the two main suppliers of chemical products for the Ammunition Commissariat (also the Kemerovo nitrogen-fertilizer plant and one may add the Chirchik Electrochemical Combine in the Tashkent Region — the latter two set up production by installing equipment evacuated from other nitrogen plants).

In 1941–1945, the K.E. Voroshilov nitrogen-fertilizer plant in Berezniki created and produced products sufficient to equip more than 30 million shells for heavy guns and more than 250 thousand heavy aircraft bombs.

During the war Berezniki Soda Plant (BSZ) was the only producer of soda (Donetsk and Slavyansk soda plants were in the occupied territory). Here the famous "Molotov cocktail" and mustard gas (10 000 tons) were produced, which deterred fascist aggressors from using chemical weapons.

For four years of the war, the Berezniki Soda Plant (No. 761), which was the only one in the USSR, provided soda ash to 28 Commissariat enterprises and caustic soda to the plants of 25 Commissariats.

During the war years Berezniki Soda Plant products were also actively used in medicine. In September 1941 a shop of pure salts for production of medicinal devices was put into operation at the soda plant. Only for 1942 the shop of pure salts of BSP produced more than 85 tons of medicines of 15 names.

In 1941 the construction of the Berezniki Magnesium Plant ("BMP") was started by the government's assignment, and already on June 22, 1943 the first products were produced at the

plant. During the war years only two plants in the USSR produced "flying metal" magnesium — BMP and the neighboring Solikamsk Magnesium Plant ("SMP"). Magnesium was used not only in aviation, it was used to make radio station hulls, added to strengthen tank armor, for incendiary and flare bombs, tracer bullets, etc.

No trees grew around the BMP, which was located on the northern outskirts of Berezniki. The ecological tension was so high within a radius of 5–7 kilometers. "Spartan" living conditions of the plant's first builders and magnesium metallurgists (they mostly lived in tents and dugouts) also caused no less harm to the organism than the production.

Harsh living conditions, hard physical labor and meager food could not but affect the health of workers and employees. Let us cite the memories of the first medical workers of the Berezniki Magnesium Plant.

The first head of the BMP health unit was Irina Egorovna Lidkovskaya, who recalled: "The health unit was located in a dugout, and in another dugout there was a hospital. The place for a construction site was very swampy, ditches were dug, drainage works were carried out. People lived in dugouts with two-tiered common bunks for 75–80 people. And people were mowed down by the rash: if one in a dugout got sick, everyone got sick. Lev Markovich Lidkovsky, the commandant (my future husband) also got sick, he lived together with everyone in a dugout... We carried the sick on our backs. Sometimes you shake off the lice and go on. All of my employees caught the disease, but God had mercy on me.

The second trouble was exhaustion. Many people died, especially many of the Uzbeks recruited to the construction site. They could neither acclimatize nor adapt to new conditions. They were starving. We could not do anything to help them, because they needed increased nutrition. Later we got glucose and administered it to the exhausted... Women, especially Tatar and German women, were more robust than men... It may be a sin that builders were starving and stealing potatoes in the village of Zatolych, but they had to. Besides, they took great risks: whoever was caught was tried.

Everyone coped the best they could. My husband didn't smoke, so he exchanged tobacco for bread. When he arrived with the Labor Army to the construction site (and he served as a platoon commander), at first he built a railroad line. Di-

¹ Memories of N.A. Gushchina. Museum of the Berezniki Azot Branch of OAO Uralchem Chemical Company. Fund "Memories of Labor Veterans".

discipline was military, we went to work in formation, in line, with songs, we went to the canteen and mine in the same way (by the way, without shoes: they wrapped whatever they could around their feet, and the snow crunched under their bare feet in winter), and we also went to bed in formation...¹.

Let us cite recollections of the future chief physician of a medical and sanitary unit of BMP in 1977–1995, Rem Semenovich Shklyarenko. He described those years as follows: “War. The beginning of BMP construction. On February 19, 1942 the first medical tent appeared on the construction site of BMP... As people arrived, they began to build dugouts, and later barracks. With the appearance of dugouts, the medical aid tent moved to a dugout, and then to a barrack in the Verkhny settlement. The barracks made up three settlements: Upper, Lower and Magnesium... ”

I started to work as a paramedic-obstetrician from December, 1946. There were no medical instruments and equipment. Sheets and bandages were gray, over-washed. There was no transportation. The sick and women in labor had to be transported to the town by hitchhiking trucks. We had to stay at home with a woman in labor for days at a time. But people were different then. There were no bandits or hooligans, so you could walk safely at night².

As you can see, even in the first post-war year medics “had no medical instruments and equipment. Sheets and bandages were gray, over-washed. There was no transportation” (from the memoirs of R.S. Shklyarenko).

Harsh working conditions during the war years, work in emergency mode inevitably led to traumatism. The annual report for 1944 in the section “Safety Technology” presents such alarming statistics: “In 1944 there were 114 traumatic cases at BMP, including: mechanical injuries — 95, thermal burns — 15, chemical burns — 1, electrical burns — 3... The total loss of working days, including days off on sick days was 1495. Most injuries occurred to workers with little production experience³.”

Another example. “There was a case when a worker’s foot fell into an electrolysis cell due to extreme fatigue. According to the Law, working hours in the electrolysis center remained 6 hours, but they usually worked for 10–12 hours...⁴.”

Thus, the medical staff of the enterprises, as well as the medical staff of the municipal hospital, had to be “on full alert” during difficult war years.

During the war years Berezniki received such informal names as “hospital town”, “town of mercy”. And it is not accidental, as 9 hospitals were deployed in the town, and the first hospital started to receive the wounded at the beginning of July 1941.

Five schools were assigned to evacuation hospitals in Berezniki during the war years. Only one school No. 1 named after A.S. Pushkin (Shkolny pereulok, 2) remained in the city center, which housed three schools and held classes in three shifts. The future president of the Russian Federation B.N. Yeltsin studied in this school during the war years (today — MAOU SOSH No. 1 named after A.S. Pushkin)⁵.

Then teachers and students themselves prepared schools for winter, made repairs, procure firewood, worked on auxiliary school plots, which amounted to 28 hectares. Many pupils helped medical personnel in evacuation hospitals, performed in front of recovering wounded soldiers with amateur art performances.

The Lenin Palace of Culture located in the city center was adapted for evacuation hospitals as well. The famous Theater of Young Spectators evacuated from Leningrad also worked in the Palace of Culture, moreover, elementary classes of Berezniki school No. 2 named after A.M. Gorky were located here (the school itself evacuation hospital (EH) No. 3129, which is mentioned by a memorial plaque near the central entrance to the school). Two EHs — No. 5932 and No. 3783 also worked in the Lenin Palace of Culture [12].

Obviously, hospital buildings also served to treat incoming wounded, and in general, the burden on the health care system in Berezniki was enormous during wartime⁶. Most of the

¹ Memories of I.E. Lidkovskaya. Berezniki Production and History Museum of LLC AVISMA (hereinafter referred to as BPIMA). F. Veterans of the Great Patriotic War (home front workers). D. 28 (2011).

² Memories of R.S. Shklyarenko. BPIMA. F. Veterans of the Great Patriotic War (home front workers). D. 28 (2011).

³ Annual report of the Berezniki Magnesium Plant on the main activities for 1944 (96 pages). State Archive of the Perm Krai (GAPK). F. p-1491. Op. 1. D. 5. L. 28.

⁴ Lecture Chief Engineer AI Ivanov “Selfless labor of Soviet people on their home front to defeat German fascism. Berezniki Production and History Museum of AVISMA (BPIMA). F. BMP during the war. D. 3. (2011). L. 4.

⁵ School № 1 named after A.S. Pushkin. MBU “Archive of the town of Berezniki”. F. № 66.

⁶ Health Care Department of the Berezniki administration. Berezniki City Archives. F. № 8, permanent storage documents for 1933–2000. Opis (inventory) No. 1, item 1–436.

work and responsibility fell on the town hospital and its medical staff.

The first train with the wounded arrived in Berezniki on August 9, 1941. There were a lot of soldiers, and many with very heavy wounds, so cars at the railway station “Usolskaya” were unloaded for five days.

Veteran of labor, nurse N.V. Kraeva, who completed the seventh grade in 1941 (her father went to the front) and got a job, like many teenage girls, as a nurse in the evacuation hospital, recalled that the wounded were brought almost every day: “We met them at the station, spread straw, laid them out there, and then carried them on stretchers to the trucks. We had to take care of the soldiers in the hospital, to feed and wash them, and also write letters”¹.

In 1944 Nina Kraeva and other nurses were sent to study in Solikamsk (nursing), after studying she returned to Berezniki and got a job in the hospital as a duty nurse, her total length of service in medicine is more than 50 years.

Arranging treatment of wounded soldiers of the Workers’ and Peasants’ Red Army (WPRA) in the USSR immediately after the outbreak of war became a top priority. In July 1941, the People’s Commissariat of Defense began the formation of 1600 evacuation hospitals. Evacuation stations were created in the Soviet Union in a fairly short time, evacuation hospitals were deployed, including in the Molotov (since 1957 — Perm) region [13].

The head evacuation hospital (No. 3143) for 800 beds was established at the end of July in Berezniki, located in Verkhnekamye, in the north of the Molotov region. It was established on the basis of a working municipal hospital (nowadays — State budgetary institution of public health care of the Perm region “Regional hospital named after Academician Evgeny Antonovich Wagner”, Berezniki). This evacuation hospital was headed by Major of Medical Service A.P. Noskov (1894–1984) [14], who since 1933 worked as the chief physician of the city hospital, and was determined to coordinate the work of all other hospitals of Berezniki garrison evacuation point (EP) No. 44 [14].

By the beginning of the Great Patriotic War A.N. Noskov had a solid professional experi-

ence². In 1915–1917 he was a paramedic in the Tsar’s army, in 1918–1920 he worked as a paramedic in the ranks of the Red Army... However, at that time, in 1941, A.N. Noskov was one of 17 physicians in the state hospital together with A.A. Sitnikov who was only one surgeon with a year and a half of work experience. Soon these doctors-surgeons A.A. Sitnikov and Z.K. Ibragimov were drafted to battle front.

Experienced doctors-surgeons A.I. Ostrovich, A.N. Andrelovich were appointed chiefs of evacuation hospitals № 3129 and № 1718 respectively. But they did not become experienced doctors-surgeons at once.

At that time the chiefs of surgical departments of the head evacuation hospital/municipal hospital were doctors who had not worked as surgeons before the war. They were therapist O.N. Khudiyarovskaya, gynecologist N.A. Botova, traumatologist A.V. Merinov, neurologist G.I. Minina, pediatrician E.I. Vitushkina, therapist N.A. Mamaev, health center doctor A.A. Koklyagina. The only specialized surgeon of Hospital No. 3143 was its chief A.P. Noskov.

For this reason, the hospital organized demonstration operating days, which were attended not only by doctors of the main hospital, but also by doctors of military units of the People’s Commissariat of Internal Affairs (PCIA, Russian abbreviation — NKVD) and the Leningrad Military Infantry School (it was evacuated to Berezniki and trained about 5 thousand junior commanders).

In addition, A.P. Noskov conducted a series of lectures on military field surgery, more than 100 hospital and interhospital conferences. He also held conferences for middle medical personnel.

In 1941 the hospital was considered as a general surgical hospital, but since 1942 it became a specialized one and accepted wounded with gunshot wounds of femur, with damage of femoral bones and joints, wounded with injuries of peripheral nerves, wounded requiring reconstructive surgeries.

5202 surgeries were performed during the war years for the entire time of work of EC No. 3143: 1503 skin-plastic, 1229 sequestromies, 718 removal of foreign bodies (fragments

¹ Memoirs of N.V. Kraeva. Berezniki Historical and Art Museum named after I.F. Kononov. I.F. (BIHM). F. 199. The Great Patriotic War (reminiscences of the home front workers).

² Personal fund of Alexander Pavlovich Noskov, honored doctor of the RSFSR, PhD in medical sciences. Berezniki municipal archives. F. 117 (“marginal documents 1916–1986”).

and bullets), 99 cavity surgeries, 36 amputations, 425 nerve surgeries, etc. A neurosurgical department with 100 beds was deployed for soldiers with nerve injuries. All operations on nerves were performed exclusively by A.P. Noskov.

During those difficult years A.P. Noskov trained about 30 physicians, among them such future famous ones as A.I. Ostrovidov (radiologist, head of the X-ray room, surgeon, honored doctor of RSFSR, PhD in medical sciences), O.N. Khudiyarovskaya (since 1957, Honored Physician of the RSFSR), G.I. Minina (since 1957, Honored Physician of the RSFSR), E.I. Vitushkina (since 1957, Honored Physician of the RSFSR), A.V. Merinov (since 1977, Honored Physician of the RSFSR, People's Physician of the USSR, Honorary Citizen of Berezniki) and others.

One of A.P. Noskov's pupils is E.A. Wagner (1918–1998), he was head of the surgical department of evacuation hospital No. 3412 of the South-Western Front. In January 1942 he was recalled from the army (as a person of German nationality) and sent to... earthworks in the Upper Kama region in the town of Borovsk. Soon he was “returned” to medicine, but the authorities continued to treat him “warily” for many years after the war.

Nevertheless, in 1956 E.A. Wagner not only headed the Berezniki municipal hospital, and defended his PhD thesis, but also became the rector of the Perm State Medical Institute (1970–1995), and today this institution (already a university) bears his name in Perm, as well as Berezniki municipal hospital is named after him (there is a bronze monument to E.A. Wagner near the main building of the hospital).

During his fruitful life Evgeny Antonovich trained 28 doctors and 76 PhDs. In particular, famous surgeons were among them: academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences, hero of socialist labor G.A. Elizarov (1921–1992), chief surgeon of Perm, head of the department of operative surgery and topographic anatomy of PGMA, honored doctor of the Russian Federation (2000) V.N. Perepelitsyn (1946–2005). Without any doubt, there is also a merit of Eugene Antonovich's teacher — Alexander Pavlovich Noskov.

As it was mentioned above, in 1941–1946, Alexander Pavlovich Noskov was not the only teacher of Eugene Antonovich. A.P. Noskov not only headed the head hospital No. 3143, but also served as a senior surgeon of hospitals of

the Berezniki garrison. In total, during the war years the town of Berezniki received 10,166 patients from the battle theater for treatment, and during this period the doctors of the head hospital performed 5202 operations. During the whole war the hospital lost only 61 people (0.6%), and Alexander Pavlovich Noskov was greatly appreciated for this¹.

On May 8, 1958 an obelisk was unveiled at the town cemetery in memory of Berezniki residents who died during the Great Patriotic War and those who died in hospitals. Today the fraternal cemetery of soldiers in the municipal cemetery of Berezniki who died in hospitals during the Great Patriotic War is a historical monument of regional significance.

With all the difficulties during the war years in Berezniki there was a high level of recovery: 50–70% of the so-called return losses were achieved, when soldiers discharged from the hospital, already experienced front-line soldiers, returned to the front.

It is no coincidence that the hospital took the 2nd place among the hospitals of the Molotov region under the leadership of A.P. Noskov. Few medical institutions of the Perm Kama region at that time had water heating, electric lighting, water supply and sewerage as in Berezniki.

At that time the operating room of the main building had a shadowless lamp, an electric apparatus for sucking fluids from cavities, surgical diathermy, and enough surgical instruments.

Both buildings of the hospital had treatment and diagnostic rooms, operating rooms, dressing rooms, dental rooms, physiotherapy rooms, physical therapy rooms, clinical and diagnostic laboratories, X-ray rooms, which were well equipped. The laboratory had two inversion microscopes, and the physiotherapy and physical therapy rooms were equipped with physiotherapy equipment and devices for therapeutic physical training.

Berezniki doctors remembered well a winged Latin expression: “A sound mind in a sound body” (Latin: *Mens sana in corpore sano*). That's why the hospital had a library, and evacuated artists of the Leningrad Theater of Young Spectators, drama theater and circus gave 148 concerts for patients during the war years.

¹ Alexander Pavlovich Noskov (chief of the evacuation hospital No. 3143). Medical workers of the Molotov (Perm) region who were especially distinguished during the Great Patriotic War (1941–1945). Perm State Archive of Social and Political History (PermGASPI). F. 8193. Op. 1. D. 1.

Movies were shown for wounded soldiers undergoing recovery, and cultural trips to the cinema and theater were organized for convalescents. Since 1943 the hospital organized mud treatment. Salt brines from the fences of the chemical plant and peat were used for this treatment. In summer time there were sports and volleyball grounds, there was even a solarium for heliotherapy in the hospital park. In winter time a ski cross was held.

The hospital had two food blocks, one of which was considered to be one of the best in the Molotov region in terms of its improvement and equipment.

In many respects it was also done and worked successfully thanks to the energy and brilliant organizational skills of A.P. Noskov. Alexander Pavlovich himself, in addition, developed a method of examination and treatment of non-healing wounds (he published two scientific papers on the treatment of hard-to-heal wounds and published a leaflet of experience exchange), and for 40 years of his medical activity in Berezniki he performed about 15 thousand operations in various fields of surgery: general, pulmonary, orthopedic, neurosurgical, urology, otolaryngology.

Certainly, during the Great Patriotic War Berezniki medical workers faced both great achievements, as noted above, and serious challenges as well. There was a shortage of fuel, power outages, food orders, severe shortage of dressing materials, antibiotics, medicines, spare parts for medical equipment. Linen was in great shortage — only at the end of 1943 the hospital received 1200 meters of cloth for the first time.

There was a lack of doctors and nurses, which forced the medical staff to work without counting time, with great overloads, and often, like many Berezniki residents in direct production, they were sleep-deprived and malnourished¹.

A remarkable fact. Notwithstanding the hardship of war, on January 25, 1943 the residents of Berezniki collected 3 million rubles for the construction of combat aircrafts. The town leadership informed the Kremlin via telegram, and then came a letter of gratitude signed by Stalin.

Doctors and medical personnel of the main evacuation hospital No. 3143 did not lag behind workers of industrial enterprises and transferred

181 thousand rubles for the construction of sanitary airplane “Military Medic”. More than 200 medical workers of Berezniki were awarded orders and medals for their conscientious and selfless labor in 1941–1945.

On April 4, 1946 the last wounded soldiers were discharged from Berezniki municipal hospital. A.P. Noskov headed the city hospital, which had already been restored to peace, until 1951. In 1953, he defended his PhD thesis on the method of surgical treatment of peptic ulcer and duodenal ulcer and fully devoted himself to practice, remaining until 1965 as chief surgeon of the Second Regional Hospital.

A.P. Noskov was a member of the State Committee of the Communist Party of Berezniki, a deputy of the Municipal Council, i.e. he represented the interests of his Berezniki voters in power structures, protected their rights enshrined in the Constitution and Laws.

His fruitful activity was rewarded with many orders and medals, inscription in the Book of Honor of the region (1949) and the town (1967). We can only regret that there is no street name and monument in honor of this man in Berezniki, as well as his colleagues-medics who made a labor feat in the deep Ural home front during the Great Patriotic War.

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