



## SOME TOPICAL HISTORICAL AND MEDICAL ISSUES CONCERNING THE ORGANISATION OF REGIONAL HEALTH CARE AT THE TIME OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR (THE CASE OF FERGANA OBLAST)

**Parvina Ismoilova**

Lecturer at the Department of  
History of Uzbekistan,  
the Fergana State University

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<b>Received:</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> October 2021 <b>Accepted:</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> November 2021 <b>Published:</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	The article describes the results of a historical-medical study reflecting the state of the health care system in the Fergana region within the World War II. Based on archival sources, the work shows how acute problems of public health protection were solved in the region during the war. Furthermore, the paper covers the specifics of the organization of healthcare, the role of doctors and nurses, as well as the training and retraining of personnel during the war time.
<b>Keywords:</b> World War II, Council of People's Commissars of the Uzbek SSR, healthcare, Fergana region, Evacuation Hospitals, the Red Crescent Society, vaccination	

For health institutions, war is a test of their preparedness to treat wounded and sick warriors to a high standard. In the hard period healthcare assumes not only social but also military and defense significance. During the World War II, the healthcare system was one of the most important factors in ensuring the combat effectiveness of the army and the viability of the home front. New approaches to the study of historical and medical aspects of wartime health care organization, including regional ones, are currently required. Relevance of the experience accumulated in the organization of the regional public health care during the war is of historical, methodological, organizational aspects, which will allow applying its elements, adapting it to new requirements and supplementing with new forms and directions.

A number of measures to optimize regional healthcare were organized during the World War II period, Fergana region being no exception. The most significant task of the healthcare system in Fergana region during the World War II was to ensure the health of the population on the home front. The years of the World War II were characterized in the region by the growth of medical and paramedical staff, the need for whom, incidentally, was perceived. The growth was mainly due to the specialists who were evacuated from the front line [1].

Since medical science was in rapid development in those hard years, was adopted a decision to locate the first Moscow Medical Institute in the Fergana region. In execution of the decision of the Evacuation Council under Council of People's Commissars of the USSR and decision of Council of People's Commissars of the Uzbek SSR, dated November 21 and 29, 1941, on placement of the 1st Moscow Medical Institute in Fergana - the Executive Committee of Fergana Provincial Council of People's Deputies decided:

- To establish a contingent of 500 undergraduate students arriving to continue their studies at the 4th Moscow Medical Institute;
- The clinical departments of the Institute should be based at medical institutions in the city of Fergana. The clinical departments of the Institute should be based at medical institutions in Fergana and the theoretical departments at health care institutions [2];

The Red Crescent society played a major role in the health care system in the region within the World War II, the main task of which was to provide short-term training for nurses.

Hence, in order to provide the military and medical institutions of the Red Army with junior medical personnel, Council of People's Commissars of the Uzbek SSR and the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan decided: to oblige the Central Committee of the Uzbek Red Crescent Society to immediately begin organizing short courses for 1,155 on-the-job nurses with a training period of two to six months. The courses were organized in Tashkent for 630 people, in Samarkand for 140 people, in Fergana for 175 people, in Namangan for 35 people, in Andijan for 35 people, in Bukhara for 70 people, in Urgench for 35 people as well in Turtkul for 35 people. *Obkoms*<sup>1</sup>, *gorkom*<sup>2</sup> and *raikoms*<sup>3</sup> of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan and the provincial, city and district executive committees

<sup>1</sup> A higher level of the Committees in oblasts

<sup>2</sup> A higher level of the Committees in cities

of the Councils of Workers' Deputies have provided assistance to the Red Crescent in the organization and staffing of nursing courses for women between the ages of 18 and 35. Suitable premises and equipment have been provided for theoretical training courses for nurses. The provincial, city and district health departments have provided the nursing courses with teaching staff from qualified senior nursing officers and with attachments to hospitals for clinical practice [3].

It is also worth noting that the process of deploying Evacuation Hospitals started in Fergana region. The Fergana Regional Health Department has information in its funds that evacuation hospitals were mainly located in Fergana city, Margilan and Kokand [4].

All these Evacuation Hospitals were provided with their own medical staff and equipment. For instance, the Evacuation Hospital No. 1038 which was placed in Fergana city had 700 beds. Number of staff positions for 1943. There were 245 of people in total. It included 2 military servicemen, 22 medical staff, 69 nursing staff, 60 junior nursing staff and 92 housekeeping staff. If turn to transport system the Evacuation Hospital No. 1038 consisted of 6 horses and 4 vehicles, including a ZIS-16, a GAZ AA ambulance, a GAZ AA car: ZIS-16, GAZ AA, GAZ AA ambulance, GAZ A car. [5].

The Evacuation Hospital No. 1802 was located in Kokand had 250 beds within the period from 1 January of 1943 to 1 January of 1944. The hospital comprised 2 servicemen and 102 volunteers. The hospital included: 2 hospital administrations, 1 civilian personnel, 1 political party, 52 hospital treatment departments, 2 X-ray rooms, 3 physiotherapy rooms, 2 clinic-diagnostician, 4 admission departments, 3 pharmacies, 3 medical offices, 1 administrative financial part, 3 procurements, 2 financial parts, 2 administrative offices, 8 kitchens, and 16 housekeeping staff.

The Evacuation hospital No. 4558 of Margilan had 300 beds. If see at the number of staff positions for 1943 it can be noticed that the total for the hospital were 151. There were 11 physicians, 35 middle medical personals, 41 nursing personals, 62 other personnel. In the Evacuation Hospital there were consultations by a surgeon, a neurologist, a psychoneurologist, a dermatologist, a laryngologist and an ophthalmologist. The hospital was located in 2 buildings [5].

Overall, the sanitary and epidemiological state of the city of Fergana during the wartime period was in whole exceptionally heavy, due to the cruel war, mass evacuation from areas occupied and threatened by the enemy and insufficiency of food and housing resources for the normal habitation of the almost doubled population. It cannot be concealed that the war and its consequences caught our city completely unprepared for all the difficulties of wartime, especially for a war of such unprecedented intensity, volume and character. There were no prepared places to receive evacuated people, to sanitize them and to treat them afterwards. There were insufficient bathing, shower and decontamination facilities, and shortages of inoculation materials, disinfectants, soap and fuel, shortage of medical personnel with the appropriate qualifications. This turned out to be the following development of major epidemic diseases. Thus, great attention was paid by the local health authorities in the region to the prevention of wartime epidemic diseases. From 1941 to 1945 the population was massively vaccinated against smallpox, typhoid, dysentery, diphtheria, typhus, measles and scarlet fever [6]. The activities of medical institutions in Fergana region contributed to maintaining the health and ability to work and preventing mass epidemiological diseases in the home front.

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<sup>3</sup> A higher level of the Committees in districts