

Телеграмма

Управлению Севлагерями.

Архангельск

Несмотря на категорические завершения Управления об урегулировании вопроса ~~о нашей~~ корреспонденции, мы тем не менее, свыше двух месяцев сидим без писем, газет, денег и пошток, отрезанные от родных и близких. Положение осужденных близостью рабноты и ~~грозит тяжкими последствиями~~ профессуры против лишения элементарных человеческих удобств и заключенные в Перломинске социалисты и анархисты, требуем: отправки и получения ~~нам~~ писем, телеграмм, переводов и пошток из Перломинска, лишить волокиту Управления ~~Арханг.~~ Севлагерями, передать контроль над ~~нашей~~ корреспонденцией администрации Перломинлага. Мы требуем срочного телеграфного распоряжения Перломинлагу:

1 марта 1923 года

По поручению:

соц. рев. Т. Карповский

по поручению анархистов И. Харин

по поручению ~~анархистов~~

по поручению ~~анархистов~~ Соц. демокр. ~~И. Харин~~

Тогданов

Telegram

To the Administration of Sevlager, Arkhangelsk

In spite of the categorical assurance of the Administration about resolving the question of correspondence, we, nevertheless, have been sitting for two months without letters, newspapers, money, or parcels sent by family and friends. The situation is made worse by the onset of the season of bad roads [*rasputitsa*] which threatens to have serious consequences. Protesting against the deprivation of basic human rights, the socialists and anarchists imprisoned at Pertominsk demand: the delivery of our letters, telegrams, remittances, and parcels from Pertominsk, bypassing the red tape of the Sevlager administration; and the transfer of control over correspondence to the administration of Pertomlager. We demand that an urgent order be issued by telegram to Pertomlager.

[Signed:]

On behalf of the Socialist-Revolutionaries: G. Kachorovsky

On behalf of the Anarchists: I. Charin

On behalf of the Social-Democrats: B. Bogdanov

March 1, 1923



In 1919 the Soviet secret police (Cheka) established several forced labor camps in Arkhangelsk province, including one near the remote village of Pertominsk, on the White Sea. By early 1923, socialist and anarchist prisoners sentenced to serve time in camps had been concentrated in the Pertominsk facility. In accordance with a custom re-

tained from tsarist times, the prisoners in each group elected a spokesperson to represent them in dealing with the authorities, and also with other prisoner groups. As the text of the telegram reproduced above shows, the different factions were able to present a united front on the issue of mail delivery. But by the end of June, 1923, the political

prisoners at Pertominsk were moved to the even more remote Solovetsky Islands.

Thanks to Sergei Ovsiannikov for publishing the text of the telegram. The original document is found in the Solovetsky State Historical, Architectural and Natural Museum-Reserve.



Boris Bogdanov in 1917 (left) and 1955 (right).

Boris Osipovich Bogdanov (1884 – 1960), from a wealthy merchant family in Odessa, was a university graduate. He became active in social-democratic politics starting in 1901, later aligning with the Menshevik faction. Arrested by the tsarist secret police in January, 1917, he was soon freed by the Revolution. After the October Revolution, he was constantly in trouble with the Bolsheviks; on December 27, 1922, he was sentenced to serve two years in the

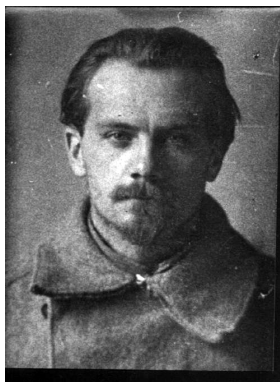
Pertominsk camp, but was transferred to the Solovetsky Islands in June, 1923. Bogdanov was in either prison or exile until 1956. During periods of exile, he was sometimes able to work as an economist. He suffered a stroke in 1952 while in custody, becoming a complete invalid, but was not released until 1956, after a second stroke. At the time of his death in 1960, he had been partially “rehabilitated” but still suffered from the stigma of being “politically unreliable.”

Ivan (Vanya) Aleksandrovich Charin (1902 – ?) belonged to the Nabat Confederation of Anarchists of Ukraine. Despite his youth, he occupied responsible positions, not only in the Nabat Confederation, but in the Makhnovist movement. Like many Ukrainian anarchists, he was arrested on November 25, 1920. On January 5, 1923, he was sentenced to two years in the Pertominsk camp. After an unsuccessful escape attempt, which may have been a provocation by the secret police, he was transferred to the Solovetsky Islands and received a new sentence of three years on September 29, 1923. Little information is available about him

after this date; he reportedly suffered from mental illness due to prolonged solitary confinement.

He is known to have been living with fellow Nabat member Liya Gotman in Zinovievsk, Ukraine, in 1927–1928, when he corresponded with Peter Arshinov in Paris. (The correspondence was intercepted by the secret police; Zinovievsk changed names several times during the Soviet era and is currently known as Kropyvnytskyi.)

The photo shows Vanya Charin (right) with Aron Baron in the courtyard of a Kharkov prison in 1922.



Georgy Trifonovich Kachorovsky (1896 – 1923) joined the Socialist-Revolutionary Party (PSR) in 1913 while a student at Kharkov University, and later served as an officer at the front in the World War. In the Civil War he held command positions in the Red Army, but was expelled as an “unreliable element.” He was arrested on March 3, 1921, for his PSR activities; in September, 1922, he took part in a protest of

political prisoners in Yaroslavl in which several prisoners were beaten. On December 24, 1922, he was sentenced to three years in the Pertominsk concentration camp, but was transferred to the Solovetsky Islands at the end of June, 1923. On December 19, 1923, he took part in the peaceful protest of a group of prisoners who were fired upon by guards. Mortally wounded, Kachorovsky died two days later.