

HISTORY OF MEDICINE

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“WHITE RUSSIAN” DOCTORS IN CYPRUS: THE FATE OF SIX GRADUATES OF IMPERIAL KHARKOV UNIVERSITY

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Abstract: The article discusses the life of six physicians who graduated from the medical faculty of Kharkov University before 1917 and emigrated in 1918-1920 together with other refugees from the Bolsheviks to Cyprus, which became a British colony. Three of the physicians were unable to find work, and in 1922 the new authority moved them from the refugee camps on the island to Serbia (later Yugoslavia). But for the rest Cyprus became the second home. The names of former Kharkov doctors, who provided medical assistance to the Greek and Turkish communities on the island for many years, remained in the memory of grateful people. A surgeon Pavel Smitten was the most experienced of them. Before emigrating he worked in clinics of Kharkov University, in municipal and private hospitals, and he opened his own surgical and gynecological hospital. Smitten worked as a military doctor throughout Russian-Japanese War, World War I and Civil Wars. His experience, initiative and talent as a healthcare provider were fully demonstrated in Cyprus too. Here Smitten also had a private hospital and worked as the head of the city hospital for a long time. Almost 10 years he was the chief medical officer of a major American mining company, and was responsible for the health of the residents of the whole industrial region.

KeyWords: Cyprus; graduates of medical faculty; Kharkov University; Pavel Smitten; physicians; White emigration.

INTRODUCTION

The term “White Russians” was used by foreigners in regard to residents of the Russian Empire who had fled abroad from the Bolsheviks during the Civil War (1918-1922). These 2-3 million of people fleeing their homeland, had some influence on the history of the states, where they had to move to as refugees. Therefore, the topic of White Russians has its place in the historiography of these countries.

After the collapse of the USSR and the Soviet system in Eastern Europe, the interest of historians in this subject has increased markedly in connection with the discovery of new documentary sources and with the return of the historical rights of the White Russians. In 1919-1922 Turkey accepted about 200-250 000 refugees from Russia.

The interest in this topic could be demonstrated by the books, published in Turkey in the post-Soviet period by such authors as Jak Deleon. *Beyoğlu’nda Beyaz Ruslar*. - Remzi kitabevi, İstanbul, 2003 [Jak Deleon. *White Russians in Beyoğlu*. Remzi Publ., İstanbul, 2003]; Oya Dağlar Macar-Elçin Macar. *Beyaz Rus Ordusu Türkiye’de*. - Libra yayıncılık, İstanbul, 2010 [Oya Dağlar Macar-Elçin Macar. *White Russian Army in Turkey*. - Libra Publ., İstanbul, 2010]; Bülent Bakar. *Esir Şehrin Misafirleri Beyaz Ruslar*. - Tarihçi kitabevi, İstanbul, 2012 [Bülent Bakar. *Guests of Captive City: White Russians*. - Tarihçi Publishing İstanbul, 2012]; İstanbul’dan Geçen Ruslar, derleyen ve Rusçadan çeviren Orhan Uravelli. - Ümit yayıncılık, Ankara, 2005 [Russians of İstanbul, compiled and transl. by Orhan Uravelli. - Ümit publ., Ankara, 2005]; Nikolay Rayevski. *Gelibolu Günlüğü. Rus Gözüyle Gelibolu Zorunlu Bir Gurbetin Öyküsü*, çeviren Aydın İbrahimov, Nesrin Bayraktar. - Ağaç yayıncıları, İstanbul, 2009 [Nikolay Rayevski. *Gelibolu Dairy. Gelibolu from the perspective of Russian: A Story of Obligatory Abroad*, transl. by Aydın İbrahimov, Nesrin Bayraktar. -

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Ağaç publ., İstanbul, 2009]; Svetlana Uturgai. Boğaz'daki Beyaz Ruslar: 1919-1929, çeviren Uğur Büke. - Tarihiçi kitabevi, İstanbul, 2015 [Svetlana Uturgai. White Russians of Bosphorus: 1919-1929, translated by Uğur Büke. - Tarihiçi publ., İstanbul 2015]. But only recently historians of the White Russian emigration have focused on the so-called «stop in Cyprus». Thousands of refugees from Novorossiysk and Odessa, later from the Crimea (through Constantinople) arrived on this island by the sea in the spring of 1920, and in 1922 almost all of them left Cyprus. Only two major works consider this issue.

The first of them [1] was published in Cyprus, 2014 by Natalya Zykova (living there since 1993), a historian and the President of local Russian Orthodox Educational Centre. The character of her novel, Mikhail Boutchik (1868-1922), who graduated from the General Staff Academy and became a Lieutenant General, a corps commander, played a prominent role in the White Movement during the Civil War. M.M.Boutchik spent the last years of his life in Cyprus, died there and was buried at British military cemetery in the suburbs of Limassol (after 1923, the island de jure became a British colony, which has long since been de facto).

However, Zykova's book also briefly mentions the arrival, life facts and challenges concerning other White Russians in Cyprus.

The topic is much better presented in the book by E.Agayev, published on Cyprus in 2015 [2]. This work is based on the archives data from Russia, Ukraine, the UK, Turkey and Cyprus, newspaper advertisements and other literature. The author discusses the reasons for the refugees' arrival on the island and their number; their life in Cyprus - in the camp and later; their attempts to become employed; assistance to refugees from the Turkish and Greek Cypriot communities. The book [2] also tells about the departure of the greater part of White Russians from the island to the Balkans and their further life in other countries.

It happened because in 1922 the British government decided to evict the Russian refugees from the Cyprus, placing them under the custody of the League of Nations'

Commissioner. In May-July 1922, many Russians were deported from Cyprus settling in Bulgaria and Serbia. Only a small part of them managed to find a permanent job on the island and remain in Cyprus. The life and work of some of these people, who became Russian Cypriots, can be traced in the sources until the mid-1960s [2, p.61-156].

As many as 1500-2000 refugees from Russia, who arrived on Cyprus between the dates of 22 March - 1 April, 1920 on the ships "Kherson" and "Anatoly Molchanov", were people of different social status, age, nationality and religion: officers and soldiers of the different regiments of the White army, officials, intellectuals and priests; Russians and Germans, Ukrainians and Poles, Jews and Armenians; Orthodox and Lutherans, Muslims and Jews; the elderly, women and children.

The physicians and nurses made up a significant part of the refugees, with many wounded and sick. We identified eleven Russian doctors among those who arrived on Cyprus. Six of them graduated from medical faculty of Kharkov Imperial University, namely Pavel Smitten, Sergey Kozen-tsov, Aleksey Ivanov, Mkrtych Arevshat'yants, Boris Vroblevski, and Mark Freyman.

This article presents some data about the lives of these former Kharkov residents before fleeing from Russia, about their stay in Cyprus and for some of them - about the fate after the eviction from the island.

Pavel Nikolayevich Smitten (1876-1941) left the most significant trace in the history of Cyprus. He was born in the Transcaucasia: in Kutaisi according to one source [3], in Tiflis (now - Tbilisi) according to the other one [4], in a noble Orthodox family of a high rank judiciary official. In 1895 Pavel graduated from the 1st Tiflis City gymnasium and entered the medical faculty of Kharkov Imperial University [3]. In 1900 P.N.Smitten received the University diploma of a physician in surgery and women's diseases, and then continued to work in Kharkov. In 1901 he was admitted to the Kharkov Medical Society on the recommendation of the future famous surgeon N.P.Trinkler [4].

In Kharkov the young doctor worked for several years as the resident physician in a private hospital of Dr. Likhonosov (Fig. 1) with a polyclinic, maternity and ortho-

paedic departments, providing the latest methods of treatment and diagnosis, such as x-ray, phototherapy and electrotherapy hospital [5].



Fig.1 Advertisement

With the beginning of the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-1905, P.N.Smitten voluntarily went from Kharkov to the Far East with the sanitary train for 200 beds. The train staff included 5 doctors, 15 nurses, 30 sanitary assistants, pharmacist, and other officials [6].

In Kharkov P.N.Smitten twice began working at the University: prior to the departure to the Far East, as an assistant at the Faculty surgical clinic [7] and after the return, at the surgical clinical Department of the University, located in Kharkov Military hospital [8]. But both times not for too long.

In 1911 Pavel Smitten for some unknown reason (possibly for health state) left Kharkov and moved to Novorossiysk, to the Black Sea coast. Here Smitten opened a private surgical and gynecological hospital, located two blocks from the shore of the Tsemes Bay, on the corner of Camp and Quarantine streets [9, p. 162]. In his hospital, as a surgeon he used the experience of administration of modern treatment and diagnostic methods, received in Kharkov. At the same time P.N.Smitten began working as a resident surgeon in Novorossiysk city (municipal) hospital [10].

In just a few years Pavel Nikolaevich managed to get

the city's great reputation as a surgeon. He did not publish articles in medical journals; Smitten reported about achievements in surgery to the authorities of Novorossiysk, and his notes were quoted on the national forum by another speaker [11, p. 107]:

“An outstanding surgeon, Dr. Smitten Recently, has recently arrived to Novorossiysk <...>, opened his surgical hospital, and received invitation to provide service in the city hospital. He began performing miracles of healing in Novorossiysk”. Smitten himself explained many of them by the city's climate.

Here is what he says in one of his notes, which described the most complex and difficult cases he performed in Novorossiysk city hospital: “In this case, such a demonstrative one, I had a sense of the vast difference between conditions for operational manipulations in our climate (in Novorossiysk), in comparison with where I had to work earlier (in Kharkov). Never would I have dared to make such an operation at this stage of the disease somewhere in another place of Russia. This case, like the number of other similar ones, is very useful for me in the sense that in all my years of practice I have never seen such a rapid recovery of health and strength. The usual course in such cases is that the wound heals in a year or two, it is the total exhaustion and often entails amyloid degeneration of the internal organs, and it ends or death, or total disability for life. But in our case, complete healing of the wound occurred after 9 weeks and after 12 days the patient was shown to my colleagues. His youthful appearance and excellent overall condition leaves nothing to be desired, he is quite healthy and able-bodied.

This case is not the only one; the impression that I have learned over the years of my work in these climatic conditions, exceeds all expectations. I am absolutely entranced. I consider climatic conditions here to be appropriate for treatment of all types of tuberculosis of the bone, glandular, abdominal, and pulmonary, as well as to treat a variety of patients who suffer severe common infections and severe forms of general purulent infection of the blood”.

It should be noted that in those years some professors-physicians who spent summer at their cottages and villas in

the vicinity of Novorossiysk, highly estimated the city as a seaside resort. In favor of this opinion was the relatively warm and sunny climate of Novorossiysk, somewhat reminiscent of Egypt. The presence of the lake (estuary) with healing muds, extensive vineyards not far from this seaside city, opened up the possibility of treatment by solar and mud baths, sea bathing, and grape [9, p.150-153].

With the beginning of the World War I P.Smitten was mobilized; this was reported by the Novorossiysk press: "Our famous surgeon P.N.Smitten has been called up to the war theatre, and is in the Caucasian army now" [12].

As after the revolutions of 1917, the World War was changed by the Civil War in Russia, for the next 6 years Smitten had to repeatedly apply his experience of military field surgery obtained "on the hills of Manchuria". Returning to Novorossiysk from the Caucasian front, the surgeon entered the service in the Armed Forces of South Russia, commanded by General A.I.Denikin.

At the beginning of 1920 Denikin's army suffered a final defeat and retreated to Novorossiysk, where troops and civilian refugees were hurriedly evacuated by the sea to the Crimea, Georgia and Turkey. With the defeat of the White Russians, Pavel Smitten also managed to leave Novorossiysk.

In [13, p.251] this episode is described in the spirit of the legends surrounding later the name of the Russian doctor:

"Dr. Smitten was an <...> elderly Russian refugee <...>. During tsarist days he had studied in two or three of the best medical universities in Russia, then had entered practice at the Black Sea port of Novorossiysk. One person says that bandits once seized him and took him to the Caucasus Mountains, where he performed an emergency operation that saved their chief's life. In 1920, when Smitten was working in the field with the White Russian army, the bandit chief had an opportunity to show his gratitude. A Bolshevik thrust cut the doctor off from Novorossiysk, where refugee ships were waiting. The only escape was through the high mountains behind the city. Smitten appealed to the bandits for help. They spirited him into the harbor along the dangerous, little known trails, and he caught the

ship just it was sailing. On this ship he reached Cyprus <...>".

An American author [13] has insufficient understanding of Russian realities in those troubled years, so his text contains a lot of exaggeration (for example in relation to the number of universities) and is self-explanatory. A military doctor Smitten made his way to Novorossiysk with the thousands of other White Russians through the wooded mountains separating the city and the port from the Kuban plain. These mountains throughout the Civil War were rife with gangs of deserters, the so called "greens", hiding from mobilizations and living by looting. If the chieftain of one of the gangs, was obligated his life of Smitten's surgical arts, helped the doctor to move through the coastal Markotkh ridge to the port, where the ships were loaded with refugees. However, the reality was much simpler...

On April 1, 1920 Pavel Smitten, a former surgeon in the Armed Forces of South Russia, arrived to Famagusta with the ship "Anatoliy Molchanov" [14].

Upon arrival of the ship, the incidence of typhus among the refugees exceeded the epidemic threshold, and Smitten with the others was placed in a quarantine camp in Famagusta. As in the camp, with a lack of medical means, issued by the British administration, and during his further life on Cyprus, the comprehensive set of surgical instruments, which Smitten brought from Novorossiysk, was very helpful to him [15, p.6].

When the quarantine period was over, Smitten registered his medical diploma of Kharkov Imperial University in Famagusta to obtain permission to work as a doctor in Cyprus [16]. He liked the island, and wanted to stay here, where the sea and the sun reminded Novorossiysk which he left forever.

Smitten went from Famagusta to Nicosia to get permission of local authorities to open a private hospital in this city. To do this, the surgeon had to walk several tens of kilometers; to preserve the neatness of his only clean pair of shoes, which he did not want to become older for his future uses, Smitten walked barefoot [13, p. 252]. The initiative of the "White Russian doctor" in Nicosia was supported by the all-Russian Zemstvo Union (ARZU) for aid

to sick and wounded soldiers. This public and political organization was created in Russia during the World War I. Financed mainly by government grants, it provided charitable assistance to the families of soldiers, and then to refugees; equipped hospitals and ambulance trains, stored medicines and underwear, trained nurses, etc. For some time ARZU continued to perform these functions also in emigration, including the help to refugees in Cyprus [2, p. 86-93].

The Smitten's surgical and gynecological hospital was opened in Nicosia by joint efforts in 1920. The well furnished hospital had 12 beds; some Russian refugees worked there as nurses and sanitary assistants. Pavel Smitten brought to hospital his disabled wife, his highly-skilled operating nurse, Miss Tripolitova, and a protégé, young Boris Vroblevsky (see below) [13, p.252]. The Smitten's private hospital in Nicosia was listed as a successful establishment in the ARZU report, among the entities opened with the Union's assistance [15, p.36].

The British administration and the Cyprus community became interested in this hospital, as well as in the owner, who "saved many lives with his extraordinary talent", and he was assigned to Nicosia municipal hospital in 1921 [17, 18]. Thus, Pavel Nikolaevich worked in two Nicosia medical institutions until 1930 [19], when he left municipal service and shifted his private hospital to Egypt, but soon returned to Cyprus. Then, on July 1931, Smitten was appointed a health officer of Cyprus Mines Corporation (CMC).

Smitten worked at CMC for a relatively short time, namely the last 10 years of his life. But in this decade he displayed his talent as a healthcare provider. The former Kharkov doctor showed his skills in the most adverse conditions quickly and cost-effectively solving complex health care challenges. In fact, Smitten became one of the heroes of the book [13] on CMC, a US company, founded in 1912, which after World War I opened a mine producing copper, sulfur and other minerals in the region of Lefke (see also article Feridun Kemal Feridun (2000). Lefke Kasabası'nın Tarihsel Boyutuna Bir Kesit: Kıbrıs Maden Şirketi (Cyprus Mines Corporation - CMC) ve Bugünkü Demografik Yapı [Feridun Kemal Feridun (2000). A Part of Historical Aspect

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Thanks to the author [13], a famous American historian and writer David Sievert Lavender (Febr. 4, 1910 - Apr. 26, 2003), Pavel Smitten, the White Russian Cypriot, entered the history of the island as a legendary figure: "This old refugee doctor was almost a legend" [13, p. 251]. This sentence is a significant statement summarizing Smitten's life in Cyprus.

So let us take a closer look at his life. Two Smitten's appointments to positions in the CMC were mentioned in the issues of "The Cyprus Gazette" during this period. In January 1932 he was appointed the head of the hospital in Pendayia (now Yeşilyurt) near Morphou Gulf [20]. The second one was Smitten's assignment to Morphou Gulf Port Health Centre as a health officer [21]. His duty there was extended on 28 December, 1937 [22]. The last register in "The Cyprus Gazette" concerning Smitten's work in CMC was from the year 1940, and his name was not mentioned in the registers after that year [23].

The author of the book [13] has left us a vivid verbal portrait of Pavel Smitten and, more importantly, highlighted the fact that the surgeon had excellent taste in modern medical technology [13, p. 252]:

"Portly of figure, easily excited, with a sandy goatee to march his imperial courtliness, Smitten completely enthralled the staff's wives. He was an accomplished chief and a lavish entertainer. He spoke Russian and French fluently; Turkish, Greek and English of most of his patients he mastered only indifferently. He often burst into strange conglomerations of sound <...>".

Smitten never let himself rusticate. He spent his vacations visiting hospitals on the Continent, especially those attached to industrial concerns. He brought back to Pendayia the latest techniques in treating fractures, installed a laboratory and X-ray equipment, introduced physiotherapy.

But the focus of his activity was always centered on people and their needs. With his assistant Vroblevsky's help, Smitten formed "health and beauty" teams for staff's

wives, engaging them vigorously in callisthenics. Recognizing that health and morale were intertwined, he eagerly supported any party or sports events that would interest and bring together families from Skouriotissa, Xeros and Mavrovouni. Safety and first-aid programs received his full co-operation.

Every day (except Sunday) he visited hospitals that were established at each of the mine villages. Several hundred children from 7 schools in the mining area were given free treatment and drugs [13, p. 252-253].

Smitten considered the food to be a very important health factor. He became fanatical about diet, and thought the staff's families were too dependent on canned goods and by precept and exhortation made kitchen gardens stylish. He advocated and finally obtained the permission to open a restaurant in each mining village where single men could have at least one hot meal a day at a reasonable price. Vehemently, Smitten endeavored to persuade the village bakers to produce more nutritious bread by adding eggs, minerals, and chopped vegetables [13, p. 252].

Mainly due to Smitten's efforts, the company rented 100 acres of land and hired unemployed miners to grow potatoes and beans to sell through CMC canteens. It also imported wheat and barley, milled the grain at Morphou, baked the bread at Xeros and sold the loaves at low rates. Consumption averaged 764 loaves a day [13, p.274-275].

P. Smitten paid greatest attention to the healthy nutrition for children. He tried to reduce the cost of milk, important for their health and development [13, p. 274]. Smitten achieved that \$13,000 was expended to build the plant where milk was produced of imported powder. This was to be distributed, either as whole or skim milk, first in schools and later to preschool children in nearby villages. Families who could pay were sold the milk at a rate of 2 shillings per month for a pint of milk a day. If it was proved beyond the family's means, and if the welfare department indicated so, the child received the milk for free.

To overcome the Cypriots' ingrained conservatism toward change, Smitten took groups of school teachers, salaried Cypriot employees, and made a tour for their

wives through the plant, gave them samples of milk and ice cream, then invited them to his home for a lecture on the nutritional value of the product. Government officials attended the opening ceremony at the plant, and for the first 20 days milk was passed out free to every child in school.

In spite of the careful campaign, the program made a slow start. Many children soon grew tired of the new food; the other ones poorly tolerated the new food. Then someone thought that yoghurt, familiar throughout the Near East, might be more acceptable. This proved true, and in July the plant began the production of 200 half-pint pots of yoghurt per day in addition to milk and ice cream (Fig. 2). It was followed by a gradual increase in the consumption of milk.



Photo: Cyprus Mines Corporation
The milk plant of the company's welfare department made yoghurt for distribution to school children.

Fig.2 Milk consumption

In Cyprus Smitten also showed himself well in the prevention of infectious diseases [13, p. 253-254]. Malaria was the biggest challenge, with incidence increasing and decreasing with the amount of rain each winter. Smitten carried out anti-malaria activities still more vigorously. The houses where the patients, ill with malaria lived were immediately sprayed. He experimented with the newest drugs and serums and kept elaborate records of the findings. Smitten lectured at village clubs, provided health education to school children through their teachers, prepared and distributed bulletins in three languages.

Persistently he importuned the government for help. The Cyprus authorities were sympathetic but handicapped by lack of funds. At last, in 1935, Smitten received an ally, when American owners of the CMC helped the Cyprus government arrange a survey by Dr. M.A.Barber of the Rockefeller Foundation. After the government began expanding its own program, Smitten was regularly called on as a consultant. In the minds of many people, Cyprus was disease-free largely due to his efforts.

Sanitation was another grave problem. Smitten's inspection teams checked regularly the slaughterhouses, restaurants, and dwellings in the villages under the mine's jurisdiction. To overcome the workers' carelessness about rubbish, the CMC distributed large cans and arranged for garbage disposal. Unaccustomed to toilets, the families would not maintain private ones and had to be educated to use the communal latrines provided in each village. Great number of horses, mules, donkeys, etc. added to the undesirable condition, but continual attention brought progress: dysentery, the scourge of the village at Scouriotissa, was eliminated by the mid-1930-s.

The overcrowding attendant upon the mine's growth complicated Smitten's problems. In the second half of 1936 a serious outbreak of spinal meningitis began in Cyprus. Itinerant workers evidently brought the disease to CMC's region from either Paphos or Famagusta, where the initial cases were reported in September.

During the following winter of 1936/37 there were a total of 829 reported cases throughout the island. A quarter of these (202 cases) were registered in the area surrounding the CMC's mines. Fatalities run as high as 30 percent. Fear swelled toward panic: when outbreak of influenza occurred in the early months of 1937, swarms of frightened people besieged Smitten's hospitals, thinking they had meningitis [13, p. 254].

Completely alarmed, the island's health authorities prepared the port of Xeros to quarantine. Such a step would have disrupted the entire shipping program and have dislocated the work of the European acid plants and smelters dependent upon the CMC's ore. However, Smitten and his allies convinced the authorities that adequate preven-

tive steps could be taken without the quarantine.

Although the laboratory of the Pendayia hospital was not designed for such tests, Smitten managed to detect three different strains of the disease, one of them particularly virulent. He sent this and all other relevant information immediately to Pennsylvania University, to expert on serums. Soon vaccines and antitoxines against meningitis were rushed by ship and air to Cyprus.

In such a way Pendayia hospital was prepared for patients' admission. Not only people working in the CMC but also all the residents of the area were also coming there. Foreseeing that it would be crowded, tents to shelter 150 patients were rented from the government. Meanwhile two buildings across the river from the Pendayia hospital were turned into isolation wards.

Some of the radical Greek newspapers used the outbreak to launch vituperative editorials about conditions in which the miners were "compelled" to live. But the statistics showed that only 37 of the 202 cases, treated in the CMC area during the winter of 1936-37, came from the company houses; the other 165 came from localities outside the mine's supervision. The island's director of medical services and the inspector of mines issued denials of the more irresponsible statements in the press, and gradually the attacks dwindled away.

Warm weather brought respite from the disease. Experts predicted the recurrence with the onset of cold weather the following winter. To combat the expected attack, Smitten and the director of medical services elaborated a vaccination program whereby the CMC would treat 12,000 people in its area while the government had to inoculate 30,000 in other areas. Superstition among the workers was certain to create resistance to the program. To remove any possible charge of compulsion, Smitten insisted on making a nominal charge of 1/3 shilling for 2 shots involved in the program. Thus reassured, hundreds of people came to the hospitals, each being tattooed to show the date and number of his injection. 8,306 people received treatment through the CMC, 6,412 being given both injections [13, p. 255].

These and other measures provided by Smitten, which

proved to be very effective, would have done an honor to an experienced epidemiologist. It is necessary, however, to remind that the organizer and leader of the impressive campaign was a representative of an entirely different medical speciality. As it turned out, the medical faculty of Kharkov University gave well-grounded knowledge on epidemiology and sanitation even to surgeons, helping in difficult life circumstances!

Smitten's activities against this spinal meningitis epidemic also caught the attention of British health team working on the island and reflected their observations in a published article:

"While visiting the villages, we saw that Dr. P. Smitten had already started to vaccinate the mine workers, their spouses and children, and he was working in the way to vaccinate as many people as possible. What Smitten had done should be remembered with gratitude" [24].

But this victory was the last for Pavel Smitten. Soon the World War II came to the Mediterranean Sea. The CMC began to experience serious difficulties with the export of its products and with the importation of food and other commodities. Many miners have lost their jobs. Food prices began to rise, including the price of milk. This is seriously violated Dr. Smitten's activity in health care.

Because of the import difficulties, only the most undernourished children could be helped. The ability of families to pay dropped sharply; in January, 1941 no charge was made to 521 of 597 children receiving a daily pint of milk or yoghurt.

But, of course, not only this disturbed former Kharkov doctor. The war was already close to Cyprus. In April 1941 Nazi blitzkrieg went by tank rink through Greece. The Germans appeared in Syria (formally French), very close to Cyprus. On May 20, 1941 Luftwaffe's paratroopers and gliders landed on the island of Crete and within 10 days defeated strong British and Greek troops. Who could be certain that their next leap will not be to Cyprus?

There is almost no doubt that the newspaper message about the success of the Nazi assault on Crete became the cause of Dr. Smitten's sudden death. Pavel Nikolaevich died suddenly of a heart attack as he set reading in his

chair in the evening of May 23, 1941 [13, p. 278]

To be continued.

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