

## Brave Deeds of the Highlanders of the North-Western Caucasus in the Partisan Movement on the Territory of Belarus

Zemira H. Tekeeva<sup>1</sup>; Larisa K. Tekeeva<sup>2\*</sup>; Dahir Dzh. Chotchaev<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Russian History, Umar Aliev Karachai-Cherkess State University.

<sup>1</sup>zem.tekeeva@yandex.ru

<sup>1</sup>ORCID 0000-0001-7608-6072

<sup>2\*</sup>Department of Russian History, Umar Aliev Karachai-Cherkess State University.

<sup>2\*</sup>lar-tek@yandex.ru

<sup>2\*</sup>ORCID 0000-0002-7461-1926

<sup>3</sup>Department of Russian History, Umar Aliev Karachai-Cherkess State University.

<sup>3</sup>tchotchaev-dahir@yandex.ru

<sup>3</sup>ORCID 0000-00016252-3366

### Abstract

*The aim of this study is to highlight the heroic exploits of the highlanders of the North-West Caucasus in the partisan movement in Belarus on the basis of available literature and archives. The methodological basis of the research uses the principles of historicism and objectivity, general scientific methods of scientific knowledge, and special methods of historical research such as comparative-historical and causal analyses of relations between historical events, system method, and method of typology and comparison. The study notes that the highlanders of the North Caucasus made a significant contribution to the process of organizing a partisan war on the territory of Belarus.*

**Key-words:** Great Patriotic War, Soviet Union, partisan Movement, Highlanders of the North-West Caucasus, Partisan Unit, Soviet People.

### 1. Introduction

All progressive humanity recently celebrated the 75th anniversary of the victory of the multinational people of the USSR in the Great Patriotic war. However, the interest in the events of that time not only has not weakened, but increases.

A huge number of Soviet, Russian and foreign historians have written scientific studies, documentary and memorial works on various aspects of the World War II and the Great Patriotic war. However, this topic is inexhaustible since new documentary sources are found and introduced into scientific circulation, previously top secret archives and other materials are disclosed. All this causes disputes, doubts, and interest in considering issues related to various stages of the World War II. Everyone agrees on one thing: not only the fate of the peoples of the USSR, but also the fate of world civilization was decided on the battlefields.

During the Great Patriotic war, the Soviet people showed examples of the greatest self-sacrifice and patriotism. The population of the occupied regions and republics fought behind enemy lines. The forests of Belarus and Ukraine, the Smolensk region, Karelia and the Bryansk region, the mountains of the Crimea and the North Caucasus became the scene of the partisan struggle against fascism.

The struggle of the partisans in the rear was one of the most powerful factors of the victory of the Soviet people over fascism, to which all the peoples of the Soviet Union made a feasible contribution.

Despite the fact that in the decades since the end of World War II the story of the struggle of Soviet partisans was studied in detail, the participation of North Caucasus highlanders in the partisan movement was insufficiently explored.

The purpose of this work is to fill this gap and highlight the role of representatives of the North-West Caucasus in the defense of the Motherland. It was in the partisan movement on the Belarusian land that the highlanders of the North-West showed the maximum of themselves.

It should be noted that a detailed study of the works about the Great Patriotic war and participation of the highlanders of the Northwest Caucasus in the partisan movement allowed to conclude that the problem is multifaceted. There are several reasons for this. First of all, it is the deportation of a number of peoples of the North Caucasus in 1943-1944 that sufficiently aggravated objective and comprehensive study of the problem. Ethnic diversity and the clash of ethnic interests do not allow to create a summarizing work on the participation of the peoples of the North Caucasus in general and the North-West Caucasus in particular in the Great Patriotic war and the partisan movement. It is because of the latter factor that made this article not focus on the nationality of the participants of the partisan movement. The partisan heroes who forever inscribed their names in this chronicle had never cared about their ethnicity. Karachay and Balkars, Kabardians and Circassians, Adygeans, Nogais and other highlanders of the North-West Caucasus, as well as all the peoples of the

vast multinational Soviet Union, showed an example of the greatest self-sacrifice and patriotism in the fight against fascism.

The selection of the topic is due to the need to understand the problems of the history of the participation of highlanders in the partisan movement from the modern point of view using newly disclosed archives.

This work divides the historiography of the question into three parts. First of all, these are summarizing works that consider the partisan movement in the temporarily occupied part of the USSR along with covering the entire history of the Great Patriotic war. These are such works as 'History of the Great Patriotic war of the Soviet Union. 1941-1945' [1] in 6 volumes, 'History of the World War II. 1939-1945' [2] in 12 volumes, etc. These works consist of archives, documents of various departments, stories of eyewitnesses and participants of the events.

The second stage is the literature about the partisan movement on the territory of Belarus [3], collections of documents [4] and memoirs [5]. They cover the formation and development of partisan formations, the heroism of Belarusians and other peoples in the fight against Nazism.

Of course, researchers also paid attention to the participation of the peoples of the North Caucasus in the Great Patriotic war. The collections of documents: 'Kabardino-Balkaria during the Great Patriotic war of 1941-1945' [6] and 'Peoples of Karachay-Cherkessia during the Great Patriotic war of 1941-1945' [7] are of special interest for this study. These works contain information about the participation of representatives of the republics in regular units of the Red Army, assistance of the rear, and the partisan movement in the North Caucasus.

Of particular interest are the monographs of K.-M. I. Aliev [8] and V. Nezhinsky [9].

The methodological basis of the research uses the principles of historicism and objectivity, general scientific methods of scientific knowledge (generalization, analysis, synthesis, comparison, inductive and deductive reasoning, and modeling), and special methods of historical research such as comparative-historical and causal analyses of relations between historical events, system method, and method of typology and comparison. The comprehensive nature of the study provides for a politically unbiased analysis of all available sources and literature.

It is known that Belarus was rightly called a partisan republic. During the occupation, 1,255 partisan units formed and fought on its territory, of which 997 were part of 213 brigades, and 258 fought independently. In total, there were 374 thousand fighters in the partisan units, including 70 thousand people who were in the combat underground. The partisans joined people of different ages, men (84%) and women (14%), representatives of many nationalities of the country [10]. Among them were many highlanders of the North-Western Caucasus. This is due to the fact that in 1941, many

Soviet military units were defeated by the aggressors in border battles, and thousands of soldiers and officers found themselves on the occupied Belarusian land. For the most part, they became the core of partisan formations. Among these soldiers were dozens of representatives of the North Caucasus. In addition, some of the highlanders of the North-West Caucasus, as well as representatives of other peoples, had to go through the torments of captivity, concentration camps and other trials before joining the partisan movement.

The work starts with the legendary personality of M. Kul'chaev, who started the war as a platoon commander and secretary of the party organization of the 7th company of the 786 rifle regiment [11].

From the first days of the war, the rifle regiment of M. T. Kul'chaev entered into fierce battles with the Nazis, and on October 10, 1941, it was surrounded near Vyazma. After 10 days, a group of fighters led by Kulchaev manages to break out of the encirclement. Until May 1942, they were hiding in the village Zabolotnaya, Borisovsky district. Kullchaev managed to put together a group of 10 people. Later, this group arrived in the Kutuzov partisan unit of the 'Burevestnik' (the Petrel) brigade, which was commanded by Hero of the Soviet Union Marmulev.

In July 1942, Kul'chaev and a group of bombers derailed an enemy train en route to the front, destroying a steam locomotive and six wagons with manpower and equipment. Then he distinguished himself in the battle near the town in Gorodetsky district of the Vitebsk region, where being a machine gunner, he provided the offensive of his unit with his machine gun fire destroying the enemy's machine gun point.

In August 1942, the 'Burevestnik' went to the Soviet rear in the location of the troops of the Kalinin front. The partisans were accepted by the Central Committee of the Communist party of Belarus. After a two-week rest, the vigilants were given the task to return to the enemy's rear and 'fan the flames of partisan war'.

A party organization was created in the unit, the secretary of which was M.T. Kul'chaev. Together with the command of the unit, the party organization launched a broad work among the population to involve it in the partisan movement. The ranks of the partisans grew, which meant that their attacks on the enemy intensified.

As a warrior, partisan Kul'chaev passed a glorious path from a machine gunner, platoon commander, and then the commissar of the unit named after Kutuzov - the brigade 'Burevestnik'.

On February 22, 1944, commissar Kul'chaev assumed command of the unit and, together with other units of the brigade completed the defeat of the enemy's manpower and transport.

Kul'chaev distinguished himself in the battle of June 5, 1944, during the breakthrough of the Nazi expeditionary forces near the village Voronichi. As a result of twenty-day battles with the punishers, the partisans were surrounded. Secretly concentrating their forces, the partisans moved to break through the enemy ring led by the commander, commissar and party organizer. In the decisive moment of the battle Kul'chaev was wounded but continued to fight. Partisans won the battle.

During his stay in the partisans of Belarus from May 2, 1942 to July 20, 1944, Kul'chaev M. T. personally led 25 battles and participated in 156 open frontal battles against the Nazi invaders.

For services to the development of the partisan movement, for valor and courage shown in the battles with the German invaders M. T. Kul'chaev was awarded the Order of the Red Banner, the Order of the Red Star and five medals. He received numerous commendations and encouragement from the brigade command.

Another native of Kabardino-Balkaria, Aziz Kamatovich Afashokov worked at a school in the village Etoko before the Patriotic war. In 1989, he volunteered to serve in the Soviet Army.

At the beginning of the Great Patriotic war, A. K. Afashokov served in the Soviet Army as a deputy political officer of company 2 of the regiment of the 50th rifle division. In July 1941, this unit was surrounded near Belostok (Western Belarus). On January 1, 1942, a group of Russian soldiers and officers managed to break out of the encirclement and connect with the Dubov partisan brigade which was commanded by Major General Dubrovsky. A little later, a new brigade was formed from the brigade named after the famous Russian commander Kutuzov. The eighth unit of the new brigade was commanded by A. Afashokov. After the Germans put a bounty on his head, Aziz Khamatovich had to change his name [12]. The headquarters of the partisan unit issued him the documents with the name of the Belarusian peasant Mikhail Ivanovich Borovitsky. The new name stuck firmly to the head of the partisan unit. A local partisan newspaper wrote about Borovitsky, the mail dropped from planes over the partisans was addressed to this name too. Moreover, when the party organization accepted the candidate of the partisan units Aziz as a member of the CPSU(b), the party membership card was issued under a new name!

In May 1943, near lake Palik, Borovitsky's unit was surrounded by the Nazis. The blockade began: the Nazi tanks were followed by footmen; the punishers were accompanied by planes.

It was necessary to deal a serious damage to the enemy and break out of the encirclement. The preparatory work carried out by the commander Borovitsky predetermined the success of the breakthrough of two fortified enemy lines. For his exploits, comrade Borovitsky repeatedly received government awards.

The highest distinction of partisan valor, recognition of merits in the fight against the Nazi invaders was the naming units and brigades after distinguished fighters and commanders who died in battles. In Belarus, more than 70 brigades, regiments and units were named after famous partisans. Among them, the 121st partisan regiment that operated in the Belynichevsky and Bykhovskiy districts of the Mogilev region numbered 1,149 partisans. It was named in March 1944 after the deceased commander, the glorious son of Karachay-Cherkessia Osman Mussaevich Kasaev, who was posthumously awarded the title of a Hero of the Soviet Union [13].

Osman Mussaevich Kasaev, was a native of the village Hurzuk of Uchkulanskaya district, the Karachay Autonomous region. Like many others, O. Kasaev, a graduate of the Karachay pedagogical worker's school, voluntarily joined the Red Army in 1937. In 1937, he entered the cavalry military school. In November 1938, O. Kasaev was transferred to the Kiev artillery school. After graduation, Kasaev was assigned to the anti-tank division as a battery commander. He participated in the liberation campaign of Soviet troops in Western Belarus in 1939. In 1940, as a battery commander in the 383rd regiment of the same division, he participated in the Red Army's campaigns in Latvia and Lithuania.

He met the war in Western Belarus, in Slonim, Baranovichi region, as chief of artillery of the 383rd rifle regiment of the 121st rifle division of the 10th army of the Western front.

O. Kasaev distinguished himself in the very first battles. However, under the onslaught of superior enemy forces, the division was defeated. Many commanders and fighters were killed, some were captured. The remaining groups of Red Army soldiers in the enemy's rear marched east at nights to join the Red Army. The group of O. Kasaev passed Baranovichi, Bobruisk, and reached the Belynichevskiy district of Mogilev region in early August. Here Kasaev and his comrades, having learned that the front was far away, decided to organize a partisan unit to continue the armed struggle against the Nazis and their henchmen. On August 10, 1941, in the forest of Sipailov near the village of Ugolshchyna, lieutenants Osman Kasaev and Mikhail Abramov created a partisan unit number 121 consisting of seven people. The commander of the unit was M. Abramov, O. Kasaev became a commissar. Soon, the unit grew to 50 people at the expense of hiding Soviet soldiers and local residents, as well as Germans and Vlasovites who defected to the partisans [14]. In July 1942 M. Abramov was killed, and Lieutenant Osman Mussaevich Kasaev took command of the 121 partisans; political commissar Ivan Martynovich Ivanov became the Commissar. By order of the military task under the Mogilev underground regional Committee of the Communist party of Belarus of November 27, 1943, the 121st partisan unit, which became part of the Klichevskiy operational center, was transformed into the 121st partisan regiment. From November 27, 1942 to June 1943, the unit was part of the 6th Mogilev brigade, then it was transferred to

the Mogilev military operational group. Osman Kasaev was the Commissar of the unit from May to July 1942, the commander of the unit from May 1942 to November 1943, the commander of the regiment - from November 1943 to February 1944.

On November 1, 1943, the personnel of the unit numbered 841 people; by the end of 1943, the 121st partisan regiment had more than 1,200 people. The 121st partisan regiment inspired great fear on the fascist invaders who organized 5 punitive expeditions against the regiment but all of them failed. The commandant of Mogilev General Hermannsdorf complained to the Nazi Governor of Belarus: 'Partisan agents are everywhere. Especially in Mogilev, Chripelev, Ugolylina, Peschanka and the other villages. West of Mogilev, the 121st regiment of red bandits has settled; the regiment is commanded by a certain Caucasian Osman, the treacherous Bolshevik Commissar, experienced in military affairs...'. [15].

The former Secretary of the Mogilev underground district Committee K. P. Stankevich wrote in the combat characteristics of Osman Kasaev: 'With his bravery and fighting prowess, Kasaev won the boundless trust of the partisans and amazing popularity among the civilian population, being sensitive to their needs, for which he earned an immortal memory' [17]. The commander of the military operational groups in Mogilev underground regional Committee of C (b) Colonel Soldatenko emphasized that O. M. Kasaev was awarded with government awards for outstanding achievements in the development of the partisan movement and struggle: the Order of the Red Banner, first degree Order of Patriotic War, the first degree medal 'Partisan of the Patriotic war', and was repeatedly presented to the title of Hero of the Soviet Union and to a major military rank. O. M. Kasaev died a hero's death in February 1944. The high title of Hero of the Soviet Union was awarded to him posthumously by the decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR on May 8, 1965. [18].

The story of Hadji Murad El'murzovich Ivanov, a native of the village Stariy Cherek, was characteristic of many servicemen at that time. The war caught him in Belarus. The unit where he served was located near Gomel. In the battles near Gomel, he was wounded and captured; from there he was sent to the Masyukovschina death camp that was located 7 km from the city of Minsk. The proud highlander fled from the camp. He was alone in the forest for a few days, then he met his fellows in misery. At first, he created a partisan group himself but soon he met with the unit named after Frunze.

Ivanov Hadji Murad El'murzovich served in the partisan brigade named after Frunze No. 18, in the Lenin partisan unit as a Commissar of the detachment from December 1941 to August 1944.

[19] The Brigade operated in the city of Minsk, Baranovichi and Polesky regions. The brigade was commanded by Major General Chernyshev (Platon).

Hadji Murat El'murzovich was a mature party worker. He put all his experience and knowledge to ensure that the tasks assigned to the squad were completed.

For the organization and guide the actions of the partisan unit named after V. I. Lenin, for derailing six enemy echelons, for participating in the rail war against the Nazis Communist H. E. Ivanov was awarded the Order of the Red Star, two medals for bravery and the first degree medal 'partisan of the Patriotic war' [20].

The legendary commanders of partisan units of the Vitebsk region of the BSSR were other highlanders: Kichibatyr Alimurzaevich Khairkizov and Yunus Kekkezovich Karaketov. The unit in the Vitebsk region was named after the first hero [20]. K. Khairkizov from the mountain village Verkhnyaya Mara, Mikoyanovsky district, and Yunus Karaketov from the mountain village Eltarkach, Ust-Dzhegutinsky district, Karachay Autonomous region, were on active service at the beginning of the war. The war was met near the border in different military units. In heavy fighting near the city of Borisov, their military units were exterminated. In the forest, both seriously injured, they accidentally bumped into each other. They were taken out and cured in the village by a Belarusian peasant. After the recover, both of them went into the woods and created partisan detachments near Borisov. In November 1942, a partisan brigade was formed from two units: the Koli unit commanded by Kichibatyr Khairkizov, and the Leni unit commanded by Yunus Karaketov. Both units were included in the brigade. The brigade commander was Vasily Leonov. The squads grew rapidly: in May 1943, the brigade had 800 soldiers, in July - about 1,200 [21].

For the shown courage Kichibatyr Alimurzaev was promoted to deputy brigade commander. The units of Khairkizov and Karaketov caused great damage to the German invaders. K. Khairkizov was wounded three times, and in June 1943 his wound was fatal. The bullet hit him right in the heart. Karaketov outlived his friend for 1 year. He died on June 8, 1944, while rescuing a platoon commander. [22]

General Director of the National Archive of the Republic of Belarus E. I. Baranovsky and head of the Department of information and scientific use of documents of the XX century in a letter to the Commission for the rehabilitation of the Karachay people under the Council of Ministers of the Karachay-Cherkess Republic noted: 'It is revealed that the command of the partisan brigade of V.S. Leonov was like in March 1943. Karaketov Yu. K. should be awarded the high title of Hero of the Soviet Union for outstanding military services, personal courage and valor in the fight against the

Nazi invaders. However, for the unknown reasons, Yu. K. Karaketov was not awarded the above-mentioned award. The same fate befell Khairkizov K. A.'[23].

However, the awards found their heroes: although with a great delay, but historical justice prevailed. By the decree of the RF President B. N. Yeltsin on 5 October 1995, No. 1016 'For courage and heroism in the fight against fascist aggressors in the Great Patriotic war 1941-1945' the title of hero of the Russian Federation was finally awarded.

Among the Soviet military personnel transferred to the deep rear of the enemy, to the Baranovichi region, Dyatlovsky district of the BSSR for conducting party and political work was Boris Yusupovich Semenov born in 1918, a native of the village Shalushka of the Kabardino-Balkar ASSR. He stayed from May 1942 to July 14, 1944 in the partisan unit 'Bor'ba' (Struggle) of the Lenin partisan brigade [24]. First, he held the position of commander of a platoon of intelligence, then the political instructor of the unit. 'We, the partisans, especially felt the great help that the Belarusian people gave us' [25], - wrote Boris Yusupovich himself.

The first major operation of the partisan unit was a raid on the enemy garrison of the village Orlya. In honor of the successful operation, the unit of N. Vakhonin and B. Semenov became known as Orlyansky. Following this, the unit conducted another operation, destroying the police station and the bridge. [26]

During his time in the unit, B. Yu. Semenov participated in 12 open fights. In one of these battles with his company in the village of Nakrishki, Dyatlovsky district, he captured 128 German soldiers and officers, left 35 soldiers and officers dead on the battlefield, and derailed 32 enemy echelons [27].

For the organizational abilities of the partisan movement, courage and bravery in the fight against the invaders, discipline and impeccable behavior in the partisan unit, political instructor Semenov B. repeatedly received gratitude for the Lenin partisan brigade. He was also awarded the military rank of Lieutenant [28].

The combat characteristics signed by the commander of the partisan brigade named after Lenin, the Hero of the Soviet Union Sinichkin, battalion Commissar Makarov and chief of staff Potseluev said that 'during his stay in the unit, Semenov showed himself on the positive side: disciplined, diligent, brave and decisive in combat terms. Semenov enjoyed great authority among the partisans and peasants of the Dyatlovsky district, actively participated in political mass work' [29].

Another legendary commander of the partisan movement in Belarus was Asker Khabatovich Barkhozov, who was born in 1916 in village Verkhnyaya Mara of the Karachay Autonomous region. In 1937, the Asker Khabatovich was drafted into the Red Army. He served in the cavalry division in

Slutsk (Belarus), which was commanded by General G. K. Zhukov. Zhukov liked physically developed and diligent Asker. The latter took him in as an orderly, and at the end of 1938 sent him to study at the Minsk cavalry military school named after Kalinin.

After graduating from the school, A. Kh. Barkvozov received the rank of Lieutenant. He was sent as a commander of a landing company of a tank division in Pruzhany, Brest region, where he was caught by the Great Patriotic war. At Pruzhany, the company took the fight on June 22, 1941. A. Barkhozov especially distinguished during the the battle for Brest. For bravery, courage, and skillful command in August 1941, he was appointed a commander of a rifle battalion, retreating with battles.

On September 30, near Rogachev, Asker Khabatovich was seriously wounded by an explosive bullet in his left leg, and soon the same leg was wounded by mine fragments. When rescuing a comrade, his companions in arms came to the village Moseevka, Budakoshelevsky district and left him at an elderly women that healed him up. When he came to his senses, three days later, Asker learned that the district where he was located was occupied by the Germans.

After recovering in April 1942, he took 20 soldiers and local young people and entered the order of Maximov, who appointed Asker as a company commander of a partisan unit. In June 1943, he became commander of a new partisan unit 830, a part of II Bahovskaya partisan brigade, commanded by major Fyodor Prokofyevich Podolyan. The latter was both the Secretary of Bykhovsky underground district Committee of the Communist party of Belarus.

His comrades told stories about Barkhozov's deed of arms. Here are some episodes from his partisan biography told by the commander of the partisan brigade Podolyan to Colonel V.A. Nezhinsky, who cites them in his essay 'Asker' [30].

Asker Khabatovich Barkhozov organized the crash of 2 enemy echelons, he hit and destroyed 6 enemy vehicles, and conducted 3 brilliant major combat operations. At the same time, the invaders lost more than 200 soldiers and officers killed and wounded. In total, the unit destroyed more than 700 fascists [31].

For courage and bravery, for heroism and organization in the struggle against the Nazi invaders, Barkhozov Asgar Khabatovych was awarded the government award the Order of Red Banner and the medal 'Partisan of the Patriotic war' of I degree.

According to the Belarusian state Museum of the history of the Great Patriotic war, A. Kh. Barkhozov was presented for the title of Hero of the Soviet Union [32].

Dmitry Asanovich Kankulov was born in 1917 in the village Malka in the Zelsky district of the Kabardino-Balkar ASSR. He met the war in the Dretun summer camps where there were soldiers of a separate division of the 360 howitzer-artillery regiment of the reserve of the main command. On

June 22, the division, where he served, joined the battle with the advanced mechanized units of the Nazis. But the forces were not equal and the division under the command of major I. I. Boyko retreated to the city of Vitebsk. However, the city was already captured by the Nazis.

Realizing that they were surrounded, the soldiers made several desperate attempts to break through the enemy's defenses on the North of Vitebsk. One of these attempts was successful. Only the rearguard, where was D. Kankulov, failed to escape as the enemy's tank and footmen units approached. He had to retreat deep into the forest. Seven surviving fighters under the leadership of political Commissar D. Kankulov decided to go to the Dretun camps hoping to join the remnants of the 10th army. But there were no Soviet units there for a long time. There was a choice: either surrender, or find a partisan unit and join it. Of course, a hearty few of Soviet fighters chose the second: a ruthless partisan struggle against the invaders.

At the beginning of May 1942, on the task of the Vitebsk underground regional party Committee, D. A. Kankulov and a small group were sent to the Polotsk district to organize a partisan unit. Dmitry Asanovich became the Commissar of the newly created unit which later grew into the IV Vitebsk partisan brigade [33]. As part of these units, Commissar Kankulov took part in almost all major combat operations conducted in the Vitebsk region against the Germans.

In Polotsk and the surrounding areas, the partisans became complete masters. They no longer conducted single and small searches for enemies but quickly and thoughtfully attacked fascist garrisons, railway junctions and highways.

On April 24, 1942, the Vitebsk regional party Committee sent Kankulov to the first partisan brigade to the twice Hero of the Soviet Union Minay Shmyrev [34].

Being the head of the intelligence unit named after Kurmalev, D. Kankulov took an active part in the defeat of the German and police garrisons of Gorodok, Ponizovye, Obol, Usvyata, Kozlovich, and other operations led by well-known underground party workers Ponomarenko, Sikorsky, Stulov, Zhelanin, Zakharov, Ryabiev, Shkredo, Shmyrev, Kudinov, Dyachkov, Novikov, and Levin.

The political description signed by the battalion Commissar Levin said that the junior political instructor is the head of intelligence of the partisan unit named after Kurmaev D. A. Kankulov 'showed himself to be disciplined, ideologically and morally stable... Demanding of himself and subordinates, shows great care for his subordinates and enjoys business authority among the personnel of the unit' [35]. Also: 'he performs all combat tasks honestly and accurately... A good organizer of the partisan movement. He may well be the commander of the unit' [36].

For his active participation in the partisan movement and his courage and bravery, D. A. Kankulov was awarded several government awards [37].

At the end of December 1942, the central headquarters of the partisan movement recalled Kankulov to Moscow and sent him with a combat group to the Kabardino-Balkar ASSR [38]. In his native Republic, he performed the task of the central headquarters of the partisan movement.

'I'm a soldier. I fought to the last. War for me is not legendary stories about long-gone days, but real events, the real past, which imperiously forces us to return to the old' [39]. These are the words of Kurman Kipkeev, a native of the city of Teberda of Karachai Autonomous region.

In 1940, Kurman Ramazanovich Kipkeev graduated from the history department of the Karachay-Cherkess teachers' Institute and immediately joined the army. He was sent to the courses of junior political instructors in Polotsk. K. R. Kipkeev started the war as a political Commissar of the 116th rifle regiment.

In the multi-day battles, the junior political instructor received two serious wounds in his leg and thigh, and he also was captured. Not yet recovered, Kurman Ramazanovich escapes from captivity and organizes a combat sabotage group of former servicemen on the territory of Belarus, and then a detachment named after Kirov.

From October 1942 to May 1944, he commanded the Kirov partisan unit as part of the Valery Chkalov partisan brigade 'For Soviet Belarus' and for two years headed the party organization of this unit.

There were legends about the deed in arms of the brave commander of the partisan unit in Belarus. Kurman Ramazanovich received the Caucasian pseudonym 'Suliko' from the Belarusians, and together with the soldiers of the unit of 150-200 people fought in Western and Central Belarus in the area of Nalibokskaya Pushcha.

During his time in the unit, he proved to be a brave fighter and a skillful commander. He participated in 28 open battles, 5 times participated in the defeat of German police garrisons and 23 times in ambushes on highways.

The company under his command eliminated 2 enemy echelons; 268 rails were blown up. He led 6 major battles, in which 44 Hitlerites were destroyed. During his time in the squad, he identified several spies. Under his leadership, the partisan unit had destroyed 23 enemy echelons with manpower and military equipment, had killed and wounded 660 punishers [40].

In May 1944, he was wounded in the leg, as a result of which his right leg was amputated.

He was granted government awards including the medal 'Partisan of the Patriotic war' of the I degree and the one 'For the victory over Germany' [41].

Niyazi Akhlaukhovitch Shoshtaev was born in the village Kamennomost of Mikoyan KHAO. Before the war, Niyazi Akhlauokvich was a teacher. He met the Great Patriotic War in the ranks of the Red Army and served as a machine gunner. Near Pinsk, Baranovichi region, he was surrounded and wounded. He was picked up and healed by Belarusian peasants.

In 1943, after recovering from his wounds, he joined the partisan unit named after Suvorov. In March 1944, the unit near the Dnieper-bug canal fought the Nazis. His fellow soldiers respected him for his heroism, courage and bravery.

Shoshtaev died in a fierce battle, shooting back in the bunker, having destroyed 2 machine-gun crews. More than 400 fascists were killed in this battle. Most of them left lying around the bunker of Shoshtaev.

Here is how this event is described by his comrade in arms A. Prudnikov: 'Well-camouflaged bunkers were built on the bank of the channel. One of them was the most dangerous place; it was where the machine gunner Shoshtaev was located.

The German artillery had fired a lot of shells on the partisan positions; after the shelling, the fascist footmen opened fire and attacked. They seemed to be drunk, going straight ahead. Many soldiers and officers of the enemy were destroyed. However, the Germans with all their efforts surrounded the bunker of Shoshtaev.

He continuously fired back until late in the evening, he never let the enemies in. In the evening, the partisan unit of the Hero of the Soviet Union, Major General Fyodorov, came to help us. The enemy was forced to retreat.

After the battle, we learned that Nikolay Shoshtaev alone fought with several fascist machine-gunners and destroyed two machine-gun crews of the enemy. In this battle, the machine gunner Shoshtaev died like a hero' [42].

He was buried in the Ivanovo district of the Brest region [43].

For participation in the partisan movement of Belarus Shoshtaev N. A. was posthumously awarded the II degree Order of the Patriotic War by the decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR dated December 30, 1948.

According to the director of the Belarusian state museum G. I. Garkun, Shoshtaev N. A. was posthumously presented for the title of Hero of the Soviet Union but because of his belonging to the repressed people, he did not receive the deserved award [44].

Bisha Khizirovich Khabirov, a native of Kabardino-Balkaria, was called up for military service in 1939. Before that, after graduating from the pedagogical worker's school, he worked as a teacher. On June 27, 1941, after graduating from the Baku Red Banner infantry military school

named after Sergo Ordzhonikidze, he was sent to the Southwestern front. He was wounded and captured. He was in the Vladimir-Volyn war camp from November 24, 1941 to May 11, 1942. Together with his comrades he escaped from captivity and joined the partisans [45].

Only a month and a half Bisha Khizirovich was a private. Then he was entrusted with the unit and after a while he was restored to the rank of officer. He became a platoon commander and then a company commander.

The courage and bravery of B. Kh. Khabirov is described in his combat characteristics: 'Comrade. Khabirov B. Kh. participated in the undermining of two enemy echelons and 12 vehicles as a squad leader. Khabirov participated in 14 combat operations where he showed courage and determination. He personally captured two Germans in a battle near the town of Gorokhovo. In the campaigns, comrade Khabirov is hardy and stable' [46].

For his courage and bravery, Bisha Khizirovich was awarded the Order of the Red Star, three medals and several commendations [47].

Zeytun Ibragimovich Gizhgiev was born in the village Aktoprak, Chegem district of the Kabardino-Balkar ASSR. He was a partisan and a reconnaissance bomber in the Gomel region in Belarus. Zeytun Ibragimovich got into the ranks of the partisans at the very beginning of the war, after the unit in which he served could not get out of the encirclement. He got into the partisan brigade named after Lenin commanded by Alexander Borisov. Zeytun Gizhgiev was the brigade's intelligence chief but everybody called him Anton. Repeatedly Zeytun Gizhniev performed responsible tasks: bridges and ammunition depots were blown up, trains were derailed [48].

For his military exploits Z. I. Gizhgiev repeatedly received commendations from the command and was awarded a partisan medal [49].

On April 6, 1985, he was awarded the II degree Order of the Patriotic War [50].

Isuf Shomakhov is also a native of Kabardino-Balkaria. He went to the front in the first days of the war. Having broken out of the encirclement, a small group of 881 footmen regiment joined the Chapaev partisan unit commanded by Konstantin Zaslunov. A few days later, a group of 17 partisans with I. Shomakhov derailed the echelon with the enemy's military equipment.

On the territory of Belarus, the number of partisans increased every day. Zaslunov became a commander of all partisan forces in the Orsha zone. On Hitler's instructions, three SS divisions were sent from the front to Orsha to defeat the partisans. But they were forced to leave the forests of Belarus, with huge losses. Among the partisans who fought heroically against the SS in 1942 was Isuf Shomakhov from the village of Zayukovo.

On September 23, 1944 I. Shomakhov was awarded his first medal 'For bravery'. After 17 days, he was awarded a second medal and soon received the Order of the Red Star [51].

Junior Sergeant Muradin Shogaevich Gadzhaev from the village Nizhnyaya Teberda, Mikoyanovsky district, Karachay Autonomous region met the war on June 22 on the Western border in the 75th howitzer regiment of a separate anti-aircraft division near the village of Dubno. The division was subjected to an air raid, then under the onslaught of armored vehicles was forced to withdraw.

Gagaev had to substitute seriously wounded commander of the platoon. Muradin Shogaevich hit the tank with the grande and was wounded in his arm, but continued to command a platoon. When leaving the Bialowieza forest, he was also wounded in both legs. After losing consciousness, he was captured. In February 1942, a brave highlander escaped from a camp located in Poland with three comrades. On March 2, 1942, they joined the Shchors partisan unit near Brest. M. Sh. Gadzhaev showed courage and heroism in carrying out military operations and grew from a private to a company commander [52].

In his award list, the head of the Belarusian staff of the partisan movement P. Kalinin notes that by November 1943, comrade Gadzhaev participated in 11 operations. On August 3, 1942, during the defeat of the garrison in Kosovo, he was the first to break into the city and kill a policeman. And on June 25, 1943, on the 1017 km of the Brest-Moscow railway, he derailed the German train.

By January 1944, after submission to the government award, he participated in six descents of enemy echelons, and by the end of March of the same year, Gadzhaev and his company destroyed 62 enemy military echelons with manpower and equipment, 64 locomotives and more than 630 cars. Muradin Gadzhayev personally undermined 11 of the 62 echelons. In the train wreck and in the battles, the company destroyed 1,400 enemy soldiers and officers.

M. Gadzhaev was six times wounded and twice shell-shocked. After the war, he lived in Brest and was an honorary citizen of the city [53]. He died in 1989 and is buried in the hero city of Brest.

Shukur Krymshaukhalov was born in village Verkhnyaya Teberda. He met the great Patriotic War in Pugachev, Saratov region. On the second day of the war, he was sent together with his regiment to the front in Belarus. When the Germans occupied Mogilev, 507, 508, and 509 regiments were surrounded. Shukur Krymshaukhalov and his fellow countryman Yusuf Chomayev broke out of the encirclement and searched for partisans.

In April 1942, they joined the partisan unit 'For the Motherland!' of the Belarus brigade of the Minsk region.

Shukur Krymshaukhalov was soon appointed a commander of a platoon. He made sure that his platoon was assigned the most dangerous and responsible tasks.

For military merit, fortitude and courage Krymshaukhalov Sh. B. was awarded the Order of the Red Star [54], II degree medals 'The partisan of the Patriotic War' [55] and 'For bravery' [56].

One of the most famous partisans in Belarus was Yusuf Dzhatdaevich Chomaev, a native of village Teberda, Mikoyan-Shaharsky district of KAO. He was also one of those who met the Great Patriotic War on the Western border, and then found himself surrounded and became a partisan in the Minsk region.

The commander of the partisan brigade 'Belarus' Pokrovsky describes Yusuf Chomaev as a brave and cold-blooded fighter. First Yu. Chomaev commanded a platoon and then a company.

In 1943, he was presented to the Order of the Red Star, in 1944 he was awarded the medal 'For bravery'.

After the liberation of Belarus at the military parade in Minsk, Yusuf Chomaev, was entrusted to carry the Red Banner of the partisan brigade Belarus as the most courageous commander of the famous company.

At the moment, it is known that more than 300 highlanders of the North Caucasus took part in the partisan movement on the territory of Belarus. Among them there are representatives of the North-West Caucasus. It is Azret Dadykovich Uzdenov, personnel officer, platoon commander; he has many deed in arms. One of the districts of the Republic of Belarus was named after him after the war. In the squad named after Chapaev Osman Abazaliev fought the enemy, in the partisan unit of A. Nevsky brigade named after Voroshilov were Ali-Soltan Aliev, I. Blimgotov, Kh. Bostanov, E. Bostanov, S. Dzhanibekov, I. Izhaev, D. Karakotov, S. Korkmazov, D. Krymshamkhalov, U. Laypanov, B. Magometov, A. Malsuygenov, Kh. Lepshokov, A. I. Shamanov, P. Semenov, T. Uzdenov, M. A. Kumykov, A. I. Shevlovok, I. U. Tohow, Kh. B. Zhamurzov, Kh. A. Khushtov and others. Many of them died brave deaths, while the others continued to work.

The joint struggle against fascism united the peoples of the vast Soviet Union: Russians, Belarusians, Ukrainians, Karachais, Kabardians, Balkars, Circassians, Tatars, Georgians, all those who fought against Nazism. Each of them risked and sometimes gave their lives for their comrade, in the name of completing a combat mission! The population always came to help the partisans. Peasants of Belarusian villages in the conditions of fascist occupation cured at home people hidden from the Germans, saved the lives of dozens of seriously wounded Caucasian soldiers of the Red Army, future partisans of Belarus, who together with others saved the lives of thousands of Belarusian women, old people and children from destruction by the Nazis and concentration camps.

Even before the approach of regular units of the Soviet Army, villages, cities and certain areas of Belarus were released from the fascist occupation.

## 2. Conclusion

Thus, within the framework of the study, it showed the significant contribution that the highlanders of the North Caucasus had made to organizing a partisan war on the territory of Belarus starting with decision-making and up to their implementation, as well as to presented some factors that influenced the effectiveness of the fight against the invaders and determined its regional specifics.

## References

- History of the Great Patriotic War of the Soviet Union. 1941-1945 (1960-1965). Moscow.
- History of the World War II 1939-1945, (1973-1982). Moscow.
- Kovalenya, A.A., Litvin, A.M., Kuz'menko, V.I. et al. (2005). Belarus during the Great Patriotic War. Magnitogorsk. Ponomarenko, L.K. (1986). The nationwide struggle in the rear of the German fascist invaders. 1941-1944. Moscow.
- The national partisan movement during the Great Patriotic War (1967). In 3 vols. Magnitogorsk.
- Levdanskiy V.A., Verkhoturov I.N., Lipilo P.P. (Eds.) (1963). Unconquered Belarus. Memoirs and articles about the national partisan movement in Belarus during the Great Patriotic War. Moscow. In the forests of Belarus: Memoirs of Soviet partisans and German anti-fascists (1977). Magnitogorsk.
- Kabardino-Balkaria during the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945 (1975). Nalchik.
- Kulaev Ch. S. (ed.) (1990). The peoples of Karachay-Cherkessia during the Great Patriotic War 1941–1945, Cherkessk.
- Aliev, K.-M.I. (2003). Light and shadow of partisan war. Moscow; Stavropol.
- Nezhinsky, V. (1971). Soldiers die with weapons: True stories about partisans. Stavropol, 335.
- Ponomarenko, P.K. (1986). A nationwide struggle in the rear of the German fascist invaders. 1941-1945. Moscow, 76.
- Same.
- Center for Documentation of the Contemporary History of the Kabardino-Balkarian Republic (CDCH KBR). Fund 972, Inv. 3, Case 416, List 4-6.
- Partisan formations in Belarus during the Great Patriotic War, (1983). Minsk, 550.
- National Archives of Belarus (NAB). Fund 3500, Inv. 2, Case 96, List 24.
- NAB. Fund 3500, Inv. 2, Case 96, List 23-24.
- Laypanov, S. (1964). The son of Karachai is a hero of Belarus, Cherkessk, 132.

Same. P. 144.

NAB. Fund 3500, Inv. 13, Case 99, List 13, 395.

Center for Documentation of the Contemporary History of the Kabardino-Balkarian Republic (CDCH KBR). Fund 972, Inv. 1, Case 11, List 145.

Laypanov, S. (1964). The son of Karachai is a hero of Belarus, Cherkessk, 134.

NAB. Fund 3606, Inv. 1, Case 16, List 31-32.

NAB. Fund 4122, Inv. 1, Case 21, List 49.

NAB. Fund 3500, Inv. 5, Case 339, List 21-22.

CDCH KBR. Fund 972, Inv. 3, Case 416, List 2.

CDCH KBR. Fund 972, Inv. 3, Case 427, List 5.

Khakuashev, E.T. (1977). In the ranks of the partisans of Belarus, Nalchik, 22.

CDCH KBR. Fund 972, Inv. 3, Case 416, List 2.

CDCH KBR. Fund 972, Inv. 1, Case 11, List 142.

CDCH KBR. Fund 972, Inv. 1, Case 11, List 142.

Nezhinsky, V. (1971). Soldiers die with weapons: True stories about partisans, Stavropol, 21.

Same.

Letter No. 3481 of 24 November 1994.

CDCH KBR. Fund 972, Inv. 3, Case 204, List 1.

CDCH KBR. Fund 972, Inv. 3, Case 204, List 16.

CDCH KBR. Fund 972, Inv. 3, Case 344, List 4.

CDCH KBR. Fund 972, Inv. 3, Case 344, List 3-4.

CDCH KBR. Fund 972, Inv. 3, Case 204, List 16-17.

CDCH KBR. Fund 972, Inv. 3, Case 204, List 17.

Dzhaubayeva, A. (n.d.). They fought to the last. <http://www.denresp.ru/ludiiisudb/7485-voevali-doposlednego.html>.

Vorob'ev, V.A. (1984). Be a hero, my son. Cherkessk, 115-132.

Same.

NAB. Fund 3500, Inv. 15, Case 192, List 79.

Same.

Letter No. 3481 of 24 November 1994.

CDCH KBR. Fund 972, Inv. 3, Case 398, List 1.

CDCH KBR. Fund 972, Inv. 3, Case 398, List 3.

CDCH KBR. Fund 972, Inv. 3, Case 398, List 1-3.

CDCH KBR. Fund 972, Inv. 3, Case 628, List 9.

CDCH KBR. Fund 972, Inv. 3, Case 628, List 11.

Central Archives of the Ministry of Defence. Anniversary card index of awards, cabinet 10, box 7. Doc. 87.

CDCH KBR. Fund 972, Inv. 3, Case 628, List 12.

Nezhinsky, V. (1971). Soldiers die with weapons: True stories about partisans. Stavropol, 5-18.

Koychuev, A.D. (1998). Karachay Autonomous Region during the Great Patriotic War. Rostov-na-Donu, 230.

Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR of August 15, 1944.

Order BShPD No. 180-N dated June 21, 1944.

Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR of 30. XII. 1948