

HISTORY

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Activity of the Don security authorities in the second half of 1930s - beginning 1940s: real and pseudo struggle with espionage and subversive activities (on the material of the archive MFSS of Rostov Region)

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On the basis of the Office of the Federal Security Service of Russian Federation for the Rostov region archive materials this paper analyzes the actions of the Don Chekists which were designed to combat sabotage and intelligence activity, subversive and espionage activities of the foreigners in the Rostov region on the eve of the Great Patriotic War. The Don Chekists have done tremendous work to prevent espionage, sabotage and spreading of provocative rumors from foreign security services representatives, whose actions were developed to destabilize the political situation and identify potential economic, military and political capabilities of the Don region in the run-up to the War. However heightened international tension level and revitalization of the foreign agents in the Soviet Union were coincided with the complex internal political situation in the country which was the reason of large-scale political reprisals and the delicate political processes. This has all contributed to identification not only real spies and saboteurs but also to falsification of forensic investigation cases by security officials and Don Chekists who implemented the political order.

Keywords: *The Office of the Federal Security Service for the Rostov region archive materials, espionage, sabotage and intelligence activity, NKVD, Don Chekists*

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