



DMITRO ANTONENKO (АНТОНЕНКО ДМИТРИЙ ЯКОВЛЕВИЧ)

(Zinkiv, Poltava oblast, Ukraine, 1918 - Perished, Russia, 1943)



According to the only official data we have, DMITRO Antonenko was drafted into the **Red Army in Kyiv**. Although no precise data exists, it is likely that Antonenko was drafted before November 1940, since he had had the rank of corporal (or junior sergeant). This rank only appeared in the Red Army in November 1940¹.

To become a corporal, a soldier had to graduate from 'sergeant school' (essentially a military camp) after four to five months of training. Military personnel could only enrol in sergeant school after three to four months in the ranks. As such, Antonenko was drafted no later than summer 1940. We may assume that he also participated in the Kyiv Strategic Defensive Operation between July, 7

– September 26, 1941, and managed to escape encirclement and evade capture.

In fact, Antonenko was a fighting man (reconnaissance scout), as part of Mitka-Tsigan, the **partisan units led by the famous Ukrainian guerilla commander, Sydir Kovpak**. Though this fact is not documented, it is firmly rooted in the memory of the late Ivan Matiushenko's family, the eminent Romani leader in the city of Kharkiv, whose wife, Valentina Matiushenko (born Antonenko), was the niece of Antonenko.

¹ Order of the People's Commissar of Defense of the USSR No. 391 on November 02, 1940 "On the establishment of military ranks for ordinary and junior commanding officers of the Red Army and the enforcement of the provision on service by junior commanding officers" (original Russian: Приказ Наркома обороны СССР №391 от 02.11.1940 "Об установлении воинских званий для рядового и младшего начальствующего состава Красной армии и введении в действие положения о прохождении службы младшим начальствующим составом").

The only archival doc we have is the ‘List of persons liable for military service who were held captive and encircled, and then mobilised by the Manturovo² county military commissariat and sent to the 177 reserve rifle regiment between 23.03.1943 and 14.04.1943’, entry Nr. 182.

The Central Archives of the Ministry of Defense of RF holds this doc - rec. 58, inv. 18001, file 1585, folios: 154 – Cover letter of the Manturovo county military commissariat to the Bureau of personal registration of casualties, 155 – 1st page of the table with names and data, 158v – the page with entry Nr. 182.

This biography has been written by Niko Rergo

² Manturovo was a small village in the Kursk oblast of Russia