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16th Military Town in Omsk: Experience of a Historical and Cultural Study of Urban Environment

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The article presents a previously understudied regional history aspect related to the origin, development and everyday life of the 16th Military Town in Omsk. It reveals the relation of the issue to the historiography of the problem on the scale of Siberian region. The objective of the research is to study the history of the 16th Military Town in Omsk by solving compound tasks. The authors analyse the microdistrict construction stages, reveal the main impact factors; study the military disposition within the microdistrict with regard to the local history. The research is based on a number of sources (previously unpublished documents from the Historical Archive of the Omsk Region and reference books) to restore the different stages of the Military Town history and construction, as well as the military disposition within the district as much as possible. The provided data form the foundation for a conclusion on the uniqueness of the 16th Military Town as a historical and cultural space of the urban environment from the perspective of history and culture studies.

Keywords: military towns, military units, World War I, Civil War, USSR, Red Army, Soviet Army, Strategic Missile Forces, microdistrict, local history.

Research area: theory and history of culture.

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The cities located in Siberia (many of them originally founded as fortresses, outposts, stockades) since the moment of foundation have been traditionally bearing the mission related to the border security; for this reason, any city planning project had always included troop housing.

After the loss in Russo-Japanese war of 1904–1905, the army reformation began. The transformations included the establishment and arrangement of new military units in the military territories of Siberia: those were large regiments that replaced the reserve infantry regiments restored to the full-scale units in time of war.

For sustainment operation, it was important to provide appropriate barracks for the new regiments. Naturally, at first the houses previously occupied by other military units were used. But the growing number of military forces required the construction of new housing and administrative infrastructure. This is how, starting from the 1910-s, the so-called military towns, or microdistricts of architectural facilities designed to meet the needs of the military authorities, appeared in Siberian cities.

In the 2010-s, Siberian local history studies began to focus on the history and architecture of the military towns of Tomsk, Irkutsk, Barnaul, Krasnoyarsk, Ulan-Ude and Novonikolaevsk-Novosibirsk (which attracted more attention than others). To our mind, the most remarkable of the works were presented by E.V. Chugunov, V.I. Baiandin, K.V. Chernobaeva, (Avilov, 2016; Baiandin, 2013; Gerashchenko, Stupnikova, 2018; Ereemeev, 2017; Kalashnikov, Tselishcheva, Kazakov, 2009; Skorikova, 2017; Tiapkin, 2008; Kharitonov, 2016; Chernobaeva, 2014, 2016; Chugunov, Zhurin, 2016; Chugunov, 2017, 2018; Shilovskiy, 2014; Ladygin, 2013: 14, 75; Voennyi Gorodok v Novonikolaevske, 2013; Umbrashko, 2014, 2016).

But even though the military and administrative centre of Western Siberia until the beginning of the 1920-s was located in Omsk, the establishment and construction of a new “military microdistrict” in town that started in 1910 is underrepresented in the historiography of the city (Gorbunova, 2016; Petin, Stel'mak, 2018: 56–57; Stel'mak, Petin, 2019: 365). The absence of any specialized research explains the urgency of the present study. It sets two comprehensive tasks solved in order to study the history of the 16th Military Town in Omsk (until the mid-20th century known as the Military Town in the suburbs of Omsk): 1) to analyse the microdistrict construction stages, describing the factors that influenced them; 2) study the change in the forces disposition with regard to local history.

The methodological base of the study relies upon the principles of historicism and systematicity, that, combined with cultural approach, reveal the qualitative changes

in the life of the 16th Military Town, assessing the influence of historical conditions on its foundation, construction, disposition of forces, settlement and everyday life of the microdistrict considered as a component of two systems: a large Siberian city and a common army structure at the same time. The problem-focused chronological method, which implies division of the studied problem into narrow issues considered one by one in the chronological order, allows to structure the presented material. The described methodological approach allows us to cover, in particular, questions of the mentality of the urban population, as well as problems of territorial and cultural identity (Riabova, 2015).

The majority of the used sources go back to the 1910–1930-s or the 1990–2000-s. Due to the specificity of the military sphere, it is impossible to study any other materials on the history of the 16th Military Town in Omsk: stored at the institutional facilities, they are hard to access. For this reason, some aspects of the topic are unevenly covered, and the research is not presented as complete. However, the volume of work done enables the authors to outline the key tendencies in the history and life of the microdistrict.

The necessary data were found in the funds of the Historical Archive of the Omsk Region, in the governmental documents related to troop housing, construction and renovation of buildings in the Military Town. An important part of the microdistrict history, which is the disposition of forces, was found only through the telephone books (including the unpublished reference publications). Some few maps of Omsk and photographs, memories of the long-term residents of the Military Town (veterans of military service) and personal observations of the authors provided additional data. The information on troop housing within the microdistrict is presented in tables (see Tables 1, 2). The commissioning dates of residential houses were specified using the technical datasheets of the houses open to public at the Internet portals Dom.MinZhKKh and GosZhKKh (Dom.MinZhKKh, 2019; Gos ZhKKh, 2019).

Now let us take a look into history. It all began in September 1910, when the merged Siberian reserve infantry regiments joined two full-time rifle regiments: the 43rd Regiment (based on the 9th Tobolsk Regiment and the 10th Omsk Regiment) and the 44th Regiment (based on the 11th Semipalatinsk Regiment and the 12th Barnaul Regiment) (Polnoe sobranie...: 1230–1231). The regiments formed the 11th Siberian Rifle Division, which united the rifle regiments dispositioned at the military posts of Omsk, Novonikolaevsk and Tomsk.

At that, the 43rd Siberian Rifle Regiment “inherited” the barracks of its “predecessor”, the 10th Omsk Siberian Reserve Regiment, located at the premises of Omsk Fortress

(today, Omsk Fortress historical and cultural complex). As an addition, in the years 1915–1917 a two-floor barrack (today, OmskEnergo office with an annexed third floor) was erected.

For the accommodation of the 44th Siberian Rifle Regiment on the land of Omsk, a land parcel in the southern suburbs of Omsk was allocated (in the territory under 1 verst (1066 m) from the city border). The construction site was not randomly chosen: it was a plain with no water barriers. As a result, the territory of the future Military Town was not far from the city, and, most importantly, it was in the close proximity from the railway and its “transport hub”, Omsk station, which was essential for the strategic military needs, such as delivery of cargo, redeployment of staff etc. All these fitted perfectly into the new Russian military doctrine, requiring a well-organized communication between transport, warehousing and production facilities within the common functional structure of the urban settlement for timely and proper performance of mobilization and supply functions (Avilov, 2016: 59).

Just like in military towns of other cities, construction of buildings in Omsk was based on standard projects of stone (brick) houses, including officer residences, soldier barracks, administrative offices, warehouses, infrastructural facilities and utilities, and horse stables. Due to the importance of the facilities, they were erected as proper permanent buildings. Many of them demonstrate distinctive features of Neo-Classic architecture. Despite the general unity of the city-planning approach, the façade of each house is individual (which is especially visible in the gateway architecture) (Bannikov, 2011: 76). The oldest of the still-standing buildings of the 16th Military Town go back to 1910. Those are the officer residence (currently, residential house No. 86, Polosukhina Str.) and the administrative building (military unit 44025, No. 3A, Orlovskogo Str.). The five officer houses built in today’s Polosukhina Str. between 1910 and 1914 are of special interest. The finishing and decoration of these buildings comprises a number of expressive techniques, typical for Modern style with some Gothic elements. “Since the houses belonged to the military jurisdiction, the pompous Baroque details were hardly used. One of the very exceptions were the windows decorated as biforium and palladio windows (arched three-section windows), decorating the avant-corps porches. Around the perimeter of the building, almost all windows are of rectangular shape. But due to the semi-circular cornices of different sizes and volumes, together with key stones of various dimensions and shapes they look graceful and fancy, contributing their elegance to the buildings. A special role is played by diversely decorated upper corners formed by the juncture of the walls. Among the permanent decorative elements,

dentils, stepped consoles, pilasters, rustics etc. are used. Even the chimneys of these houses demonstrate unusual structures and shapes” (Kozlova, 2013: 131–132).

By the way, the part of the 16th Military Town which became today’s Polosukhina Str., got this name only in May 1998. The oldest street of the microdistrict was named after the graduate of M.V. Frunze Omsk Military School, Colonel V.I. Polosukhin (1904–1942), who died in a battle by Mozhaysk (GIAOO. F. R-3159. Op. 1. D. 550: L. 108; Ulitsy..., 2008: 83). In the memory of the hero of the war, the commemorative plaque on building No.102 was installed. In the years 1910–1911, a civil facility in the Military Town was erected: the stone single-altar Church of the Intercession of the Holy Virgin of the 44th Siberian Rifle Regiment (standard project) (Metricheskie knigi...: 55–57).

According to the billets of the military forces, institutions and organizations of the Omsk Military District as of January 1, 1912, the Military Town comprised the headquarters and two battalions of the 44th Siberian Rifle Regiment. After deployment of the regiment in Omsk, two battalions of the regiments remained in Barnaul, out of which the 13th and 15th Companies were assigned to the guard duty in Semipalatinsk (GIAOO. F. 67. Op. 2. D. 3193: L. 105–105ob.). Right before the World War I, the regiment was completely transferred to Omsk (Pervyy Sibirskiy...: 304). For accommodation of the new battalions of the regiments, the barracks and officer houses were erected, which obviously explains the construction of the residential houses between 1914 and 1916. Thus, the first (“Imperial”) stage of the Military Town construction, 1910–1916, was distinctive with the active construction of predominantly brick buildings. Particularly, as it was noticed later, during the World War I a considerable share of efforts and funds of the Chief Engineering Board of the Military Ministry was concentrated on construction of military towns. Omsk was not an exception from the general tendency (GIAOO. F. R-1397. Op. 1, D. 28: L. 1ob.).

In the years 1912–1916, the still-standing brick residential and administrative buildings in the territory of the former Omsk Fortress (used for the Headquarters of the Omsk Military District and the 43rd Siberian Rifle Regiment), and the facilities of the artillery brigade and Omsk Military Hospital were erected.

As we can see from the analysis of Omsk maps of the mid-1910-s, in the north the housing estate of the Military Town bordered on the camps of the cadet corps, engineering corps and the 43rd Siberian Rifle Regiment (currently, the area between K. Marx Avenue, Panfilova and Bulvarnaya Streets under the housing estate and Saturn PJSC Omsk workshops). In the west, the Military Town backed onto the camps of the

artillery division and the Cossack Host (today, there are a tram depot and a housing estate between Angarskaya, Bratskaya, Kotovskogo and Orlovskogo Streets). To the south-west from the Military Town, there was the Military Nutrition Centre (currently, industrial quarters near Voенно-Produktovy Punkt and Bratskaya Streets). In the south, in close proximity, there was a railway; in the south-east, the Military Town bordered on the country house of the Appointed Hetman of the Siberian Cossack Host (currently, industrial zone between 1st Voennaya, Khabarovskaya, Kharkovskaya, and 6th Rabochaya Streets). In the east of the Military Town there lied a vast parcel of land, which at that time was under the temporary possession of the Defence Department (with a firing ground, a shooting gallery, and officers' summer barracks).

The World War I brought changes to all aspects of life of the Military Town. The changes, first of all, concerned the disposition of forces, caused by deployment of five new reserve battalions. Moreover, the apartments of the officers of the 44th Siberian Rifle Regiment who had left for the frontline, were used to accommodate the officers of other military divisions located in Omsk.

It is also worthwhile noticing the meaning of the *Military Town* term in Omsk toponymy of those times. Before the 1920-s, the documents distinguish between the two areas: the Military Town as such and the Camp Town (aforementioned territory occupied by the army camps). The Camp (*Lagerny*) Town gave name to Lagernaya Str., finishing around its territory, which had found its current track by 1898 (since 1975 known as Marshala Zhukova Str.) (Ulitsy...: 43). But sometimes, according to the documents, the war prisoners' camp located in the north-west from the Military Town, established by 1915, was also related to the Camp Town (Pervaia mirovaia voyna...: 126–131). Remarkably, in the 1910-s in the address books the Military Town was presented as located “by the hippodrome”, and in the 1920-s the “landmark focus” shifted. The Military Town was growing (both in the area and general relevance). Since that time, the hippodrome began to be described as located “near the military town / behind the military town”. By the early 1920-s, the “mixed” name of the “military-camp town” was used (GIAOO. F. R-145. Op. 1. D. 152: L. 4). By the mid-1920-s, the area got its commonly used title of the Military Town.

In 1914–1920, the territory and building sites of the Military Town were naturally sought for. As we see, in the Anti-Bolshevik period it accommodated various military units (Table 1). We assume that all of them did not have to be dispositioned there simultaneously (based on the available sources, the precise chronology was not established). The sources that indicate the Camp Town as the disposition site of the

Table 1. Disposition of military units and establishments in the Military Town near Omsk (1910–1930-s)

Period	Military units and institutions
1911–1912 (Torgovo-promyshlennyy putevoditel'. Adres-kalendar'...: 121; Adresnaia knizhka i adres-kalendar' Akmolinsoy oblasti na 1912 g.: 49)	44 th Siberian Rifle Regiment (no address indicated) Headquarters and two battalions
1913–1914 (GIAOO. F. 67. Op. 2, D. 3193: 105–105ob.; Ves' Omsk...: 14)	44 th Siberian Rifle Regiment (near Omsk station / no address indicated)
1915 (Pamiatnaia knizhka Akmolinskoy oblasti na 1914 g...: 37)	Military Construction Commission (Camp Town) 44 th Siberian Rifle Regiment (no address indicated)
1915–1916 (Pamiatnaia knizhka Akmolinskoy oblasti na 1915 g...: 28–34; Spisok abonentov Omskoy telefonnoy seti na 1915 g...: 25, 41; Pamiatnaia knizhka Akmolinskoy oblasti na 1916 g...: 45–52; Spisok abonentov Omskoy telefonnoy seti na 1916 g... 15)	Battalions of the 20 th , 27 th , 28 th , 36 th , 37 th Reserve Regiments (Camp Town)
late 1918–1919 (Anti-Bolshevik period) (GIAOO. F. R-1617. Op. 1, D. 22: L. 5–7, 62, 69ob., 70; Spravochnik i spisok abonentov telefonnoy seti goroda Omska i atamanskogo khutora, 1919: 51, 54–57, 74; GIAOO. F. R-26. Op. 1. D. 30: L. 86ob.)	Siberian Army Automotive Plant Artillery Division Garrison bath house-laundry 4 th Siberian Steppe Regiment Office War Prisoners' Camp (Camp Town) Casting and Mechanical Plant of the Military and Industrial Committee (Camp Town) Omsk and Petrograd Departments of Topography Omsk Horse Stables Department I.N. Krasil'nikov Squad Editorial board of the 2-verst map of the Military Topography Department Consolidated Cossack Horse Coy Siberian Army Automotive Department Director's Office Central Warehouse of the Siberian Army Automotive Department (Camp Town) Czech Club Headquarters of the 2 nd Battalion of Omsk Railway Guard (Camp Town) Czechoslovak Corp Headquarters Electric Workshop of the Chief Engineering Board of Siberian Army 1 st Rifle Czechoslovak (West Siberian) Regiment (Camp Town) 2 nd Siberian Military Driving School

Table 1 (continue)

<p>late 1919–1920 (Soviet period) (GIAOO. F. R-26. Op. 1. D. 217: L. 2.; GIAOO. F. R-979. Op. 1. D. 1: L. 38ob.; GIAOO. F. R-33. Op. 1. D. 27: L. 16ob.)</p>	<p>Automotive Warehouse of Military District Garrison bath house-laundry Howitzer Battalion of the 26th Detached Division Omsk Quarantine station (dismissed in 1920) Rear Militia Detached Battalion (“Military Town, Camp Town / 2nd Concentration Camp”) Detached Reserve Machine-Gun Battalion 5th Army Storage Buffer 1st and 2nd Recovering Red Army Soldiers Regiments of Omsk (“Barracks around the Military Town”) 33rd and 34th Reserve Rifle Regiments (Camp Town) 1st and 2nd Omsk Garrison Bakery 1st Company of the 5th Detached Rifle Battalion of Railway Guard 2nd Red Rifle Regiment 7th Detached Reserve Machine-Gun Battalion</p>
<p>1921 (GIAOO. F. R-217. Op. 1. D. 103: L. 113, 117ob., 118ob., 153ob.)</p>	<p>Military Labour Construction Squad Omsk Branch of the Regional Horse Stables Political Department of the 8th Reserve Rifle Brigade Full-Time Training Rifle Regiment Non-com Officers School of the 29th Division 1st Omsk Garrison Bakery 33rd Regiment (formed in March 1921 by merging the 33rd and 34th Regiments)</p>
<p>1923–1924 (GIAOO. F. R-217. Op. 1. D. 104: L. 96, 101ob., 102ob., 172, 205; Ves’ Omsk. Telefonnyy spravochnik na 1923–1924 gg...: 30, 31, 37)</p>	<p>Casting and Mechanical Plant (Camp Town) Omsk Regional Military and Consumer Society (Camp Town) 87th [Rifle] Regiment</p>
<p>1925–1926 (GIAOO. F. R-217. Op. 1. D. 63: L. 9, 23, 24; Spisok abonentov Omskoy telefonnoy seti na 1925–1926 gg...: 29, 39, 56)</p>	<p>Regional Military Clothing Depot Military Engineering Depot 34th Omsk Rifle Regiment</p>
<p>1927 (Telefonnyy spravochnik na 1927–1928 gg...: 33, 71)</p>	<p>Omskselkhozrest Hippodrome 34th Omsk Infantry Regiment</p>
<p>1930 (Spisok abonentov Omskoy telefonnoy seti na 1930 g...: 18)</p>	<p>34th Omsk Infantry Regiment</p>
<p>August 1945–1950-s (Vsio o 56 UMSD i 465 OUTs g. Omsk)</p>	<p>113th Artillery Regiment</p>

military units and establishments provide a comment. If the disposition site is the Military Town, the comment is absent.

In the French newsreel, showing Omsk in spring 1919, we see the review and parade of the Czech troops near the Military Town (Petin, Stel'mak, 2018: 56–57; Stel'mak, Petin, 2019: 365). Now we may confidently attribute this footage, considering that the Military Town was the location of the Headquarters of the Czechoslovak Corps and the 1st Czechoslovak (Western Siberian) Rifle Regiment: those are their staff in the footage.

By autumn 1919, the contractor of the Chief Engineering Board of Siberian Army began erecting some engineering warehouses, hangars etc. in the Military Town (GIAOO. F. R-1710. Op. 1. D. 87. L. 1–147). The process was interrupted for a while as on November 13–14, 1919, the Whites left the city. Under Soviet rule, as soon as in late November 1919 the construction resumed in cooperation with the military engineers of the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army and Omsk Local Council of National Economy. As a result, in the years 1920–1922, some barracks, horse stables, a shooting gallery, a bakery, and some toilets were built (GIAOO. F. R-223. Op. 1. D. 164: L. 6; Op. 2. D. 6: L. 55–56ob.). In late November 1919, the Red Army units settled down in the Military Town, but due to the rapid march of the Reds to the east some of the units did not stay long. Together with that, the merge and dismissal of some units were in process. At the same time, some rear services of both the Reds and the Whites remained in their habitual places (see Table 1).

In 1920–1922, frequent thefts of wooden construction materials, mostly for using them as heating fuel were an acute problem for construction of new houses in the Military Town. Among the suspects, there were local residents, builders and the Red Army soldiers accommodated in the Military Town (GIAOO. F. R-223. Op. 1. D. 164: L. 29, 129). Sometimes the lawbreakers committed acts of vandalism, damaging the used buildings to get the fuel they needed (GIAOO. F. R-145. Op. 1. D. 152). The neglect of the military, not providing proper security, the crimes and deliberate damage of the buildings forced Omsk Local Branch of Workers' and Peasants' Inspectorate to appeal to Omsk Local Branch of Justice on November 29, 1921. However, the investigation yielded no results, and the guilty was not found. Omsk Local Revolutionary Tribunal closed the case on June 29, 1922 (GIAOO. F. R-239. Op. 1. D. 2335: L. 4, 15, 121–124).

As Omsk Military and Engineering Division regretfully concluded, in 1917–1920 the barracks of the Military Town were very actively used by the armies of all governments. But none of the rear services dealing with the accommodation of the

forces took care of the maintenance of the buildings and premises. There is no surprise, that such a “consumption-focused” approach caused dramatic deterioration of the Military Town buildings, which affected the everyday life of the military resident there (GIAOO. F. R-1397. Op. 1. D. 28: L. 1ob.).

For this reason, in 1922–1923, Omsk Local Military and Engineering Division carried out an overhaul of the club and 21 barracks in the premises of the 87th Regiment in the Military and Camp Towns. According to the military engineers, the active use of the buildings required immediate consideration and urgent measures. The stoves were repaired; the windows were glazed and insulated. The stone workshop of the Casting and Mechanical Plant, where on the ground floor the general mess party and the 87th Regiment workshops were located, was overhauled by the plant itself. At the same time, the one Barrack in the Military Town was disassembled and relocated to the explosives’ storage area (GIAOO. F. R-1397. Op. 1. D. 28: L. 2ob., 6–10ob., 13ob.-18ob., 24ob., 27–34ob.). The renovation and construction of buildings in the Military Town was still carried out with the support of the municipal authorities. Thus, to provide accommodation of the Red Army officers’ families, upon the note of the Commissar of Omsk Regional Military Commissariat, Omsk Regional Executive Committee erected a 10-apartment wooden barrack in the Military Town in autumn 1927. In 1931, the military and civil authorities renovated the 34th Regiment warehouses (HIAOO. F. R-235. Op. 2. D. 127: L. 173–174ob.; Op. 7. D. 43: L. 240).

As it is seen in Omsk city map of 1923, in the west and south-west the Military Town bordered on 1–3rd Yuzhnaya Streets (not survived). In those years, in the Camp Town there were streets: 1–3rd Batal’onnaya, 1–2nd Sapernaya, Batareynaya, Zheleznodorozhnaya, Intendantskaya (not survived). In the north-east of the Military Town (currently, the area of Panfilova Str., near Omskiy Mineral Water Plant), there stood the Automotive Plant, and in the south-eastern part, there was the Casting and Mechanical Plant. In the west and south-east, the Military Town was surrounded by earth houses, where the military families and local citizens lived (Ulitsy...: 120, 122, 130; GIAOO. F. R-695. Op. 1. D. 82, 83).

But the close proximity of the Military Town to the civil housing estate was, according to the military, improper for the normal life of the forces. As a result, a town border and a construction-free restricted zone were established. Order No. 17 of the Presidium of Omsk Municipal Council dated September 22, 1925 prescribed the local management department of Leninsky District Committee to resettle the residents of the earth houses in the Military Town, located near the eliminated Casting and

Mechanical Plant. Around 20 earth houses were to be demolished (GIAOO F. R-1710. Op. 1. D. 87: L. 7–8). But the process got stalled. On August 17, 1927, Omsk Municipal Council stated that the Presidium Order dated March 9, 1927 on the demolition of the unauthorized buildings in the Camp Town was not satisfied by the municipal bodies. The latter were requested to immediately begin the resettlement of the non-workers. In case of conflicts, it was instructed to report to the Municipal Council Presidium (GIAOO. F. R-590. Op. 1. D. 42: L 2–2ob.).

The fate of the parish church in the Military Town, which in the 1920-s became a religious and enlightenment centre, was tragic. The relations between the authorities and Russian Orthodox Church in the Omsk Oblast at that time had been tense (Sushko, Petin, 2018; Vasilevskiy, Sushko, 2017: 85–107). In 1922, all church relics were withdrawn. In 1923, the attempts of the military to close down the church (despite the protests of the believers) resulted in erection of a fence around the Military Town, which closed the access to the church. On June 15, 1927, Omsk Municipal Council satisfied the request of the Head of the Military Town and on December 14, 1927, the church was closed, given to possession of the 34th Omsk Rifle Regiment, while its property and bells were distributed between other churches of Omsk. The church was demolished in the 1960-s (Lebedeva, 2004: 107, 136). Later, a little park was arranged in the territory. In 1990-s — 2000-s, the former church territory was used for construction of a garage co-op and a housing estate (territory of the houses No. 5, Orlovskogo Str., and No. 19/a, Bratskaya Str.).

The period of 1930 — late 1950-s in the history of the Military Town remains an understudied gap. It is known that in this time and until 2000-s, the rifle units were dispositioned there (see Table 2), and the microdistrict was constructed on the infill principle basis. In 1938, brick building No. 190 was constructed. In 1953–1961, in the west, parallel to the current Polosukhina Str., a housing estate was erected (six two-story houses); since September 1999, it was mapped out as a street, named after an Omsk resident, Hero of Russia, Lieutenant Colonel A. V. Pechnikov (1958–1995), who died in Chechnya. In 2012, in the memory of A. V. Pechnikov, on house No. 356 a commemorative plaque was installed (Ulitsy..., 2008: 81). The residential houses in Pechnikova Str., unlike those in the next Polosukhina Str., are plain and undecorated: square in shape, with no balconies, sole coloured. In the streets, there are no car parking places, but some front gardens and flower beds are arranged, and in the yards there are wooden sheds and clothes-line stands. Like no other street of the Military Town, Pechnikova Str. creates the frozen time illusion: the time can be only guessed

from the insulated glass units in the windows. The streets Angarskaya, Bratskaya, Kotovskogo, Orlovskogo, mapped out in January 1957, made up the southern and western “topographic borders” of the microdistrict (GIAOO. F. R-235. Op. 2. D. 1215: L. 190). It allows concluding that the Military Town, previously located in the suburbs, became a part of Omsk. This was when its common “numbered” title was officialised.

A new stage in the Military Town development began in February 1961. Upon the Resolution of the General Headquarters of the Armed Forces of the USSR, based on the 27th Training Artillery Regiment, the 7th Detached Missile Corps was established with the management located in Omsk. Upon the Directive of the Main Headquarters of the Strategic Missile Troops of March 29, 1961, new military units were created within the corps. Upon the Directive of the Commander of the Strategic Missile Troops dated April 13, 1961, the 211th, 212th, 213th and 216th brigades were reformed into missile divisions by May 30, 1961. To commemorate the service in the Great Patriotic War battles, under the Directive of the Ministry of Defence of the USSR dated April 5, 1961, the awards of the 109th Rifle Division were handed over to the military unit 43189, and the new title of the 7th Detached Guards’ Missile Berislav-Khingon Corps Twice Decorated with the Order of the Red Banner, awarded with the Order of Suvorov of the 2nd Grade” was assigned (Omskaia gvardeyskaia..., 2009: 19–21). Throughout the next 30 years, in both service and everyday life the infantrymen and missilemen lived side by side (see Table 2).

As the 7th Missile Corps was established in Omsk, under the order dated March 29, 1961, the Capital Construction Department (CCD) was created. Its main task was the arrangement of the rear and utilities infrastructure. In those years, military towns were built as autonomous facilities with their own hospitals, schools, kindergartens, canteens, clubs, water and heat supplies. In 1961–1963, the construction of the 1st stage of the housing estate of the 16th Military Town was put into operation. In the west, the estate bordered on the tram depot, in the south — with the Strategic Missile Unit. It consisted of five four-story residential houses of I-447 series (no. 365, 366, 367, 368, 171) and one five-story house of I-511 series (No. 374). The microdistrict was arranged in the shape of a rectangle with a common yard for all six houses.

In those years, the “central square” of the 16th Military Town between house No. 374 and house No. 52 in Pechnikova Str. was formed; the main administrative and economic institutions of the microdistrict were located there. A.N. Naumova (born 1943), former telegraphist of the communication hub of the military unit 77112 of the Soviet Army, presented her memories of 1963: “*Our family settled down in the Military Town in March 1963 in one of the apartments of the house No. 365. House No. 374*

was still under construction; the others had been commissioned. Almost the entire ground floor of the house No. 374 was occupied by the officer canteen and the common kitchen. There was no grocery store back then. The three-story building No. 52 in Pechnikova Str. was already there; it had been completed several years before. Even then, a half of it was used for residence, and a half of it was administrative. There was the house manager's office and the utilities department. The hairdresser's shop and the grocery stores we have today were not there. There was a "Voentorg", not a shop, but the administration of the body responsible for supplying goods to the military. The square looked quite empty; the trees were still small".

In 1966, in the northern part the five-story blocks of apartments No. 381, 382, 383 were built, also united into a single unit with a common yard. On the ground floor of house No. 381, a military tailor's shop (functioning until mid-2000-s) and a shoe repair shop were opened. In the north-western territory of the 16th Military Town, three more five-story residential houses were built. In 1973, at the end of the modern Polosukhina Str., a five-story block of 100 apartments No. 394 was built. In 1977, a same block of 70 apartment No. 414 was constructed, with the façade overlooking the tram rails along today's 2nd Transportnaya Str. By the eastern gable façade, a block was annexed, where a grocery and department store "Zdezdochka" was opened (Telefony..., 1990: 128). In 1975, at the crossroads of today's Pechnikova Str. and the street leading to the circus building, a five-story brick residential house of series I-447 was built. The construction of new housing estates went along the demolition of the old wooden houses of the 1920–1930-s (barracks, horse stables etc.).

In the 1970-s, the town construction shifted south-east. To clarify, the general housing estate of the microdistrict consists of two parts, divided by the "buffer zone", the Strategic Missile Forces military unit. Around Polosukhina Str. and the motorway from 1st Raz'ezd Str. to the gateway of the missile unit second checkpoint, the two halves of the microdistrict are connected by the pedestrian crossing (known as "viaduct" among the locals). Among the town residents, no distinctive or vivid toponyms have caught on (or appeared). The microdistrict residents do not divide it into the "old" and "new" territories, though it would have been chronologically reasonable. The geographic names used in the present paper are intended to specify the territories, but these toponyms are not that obvious for the people living in the microdistrict. In both parts of the Military Town, they refer to the opposite side as "over the viaduct".

The building of the Officers' Club (south-east of the microdistrict, between 1st Raz'ezd Str. in the east, Orlovskogo Str. in the west and the railway in the south) is

Table 2. Disposition of military units and establishments in the Military Town in Omsk (1960-s — 2000-s) (Vsio o 56 UMSD i 465 OUTs g. Omsk; Omskaia strategicheskaja..., 1999; Omskaia strategicheskaja..., 2004; Omskaia gvardeyskaia..., 2009)

1946–1993	20 th Rifle Brigade (1946–1949), 67 th Motorized Division (1949–1968), 56 th Training Motorized Rifle Division (1967–1987), 465 th District Ground Forces Non-com Officer Training Centre. Commandment and Headquarter (military unit 22306 and 30633) Special department (security service) Commandant's Service Company (until 1989) Communication hub (until 1989) 578 th Detached Training Communication Battalion (until 1989) Detached Intelligence Battalion (until 1989) 170 th Detached Training Medical Battalion 261 st Reserve Motorized Rifle Division (since 1968) Printing centre
Since 1960	27 th Training Artillery Polygon (forming the basis for the 7 th Detached Missile Corps with a rear department) 85 th Officers' Club
1961–1974	Military unit 77112 (communication hub) Command Centre
Since 1961	Military unit 77146 (CCD) Detached Guard Company Detached Missile Corps Headquarters Operations Division Organization and Mobilization Department Communication Department Aiming Control and Astrogeodetic Support Service State Secret Security Service United Engineering Service Armament and Operation Commandment Automotive Service Educational Activities Department Human Resources Department Engineering and Technical Service Financial and Economic Service and Financial Inspection Medical Service Headquarters Chancellery. Military Council Secretariat
Since 1962	Legal Service of the military unit 43189
Since 1963	Military unit 96461 (2133 rd warehouse and communication workshop) Military unit 41452 (Military Tribunal, since December 9, 1999–61 st Garrison Military Court) Military unit 56681 (Military Prosecution of Omsk Missile Army) Omsk Missile Army Trade Union (Territorial Trade Union Committee A-1405)
Since 1970	Military unit 43189 (7 th Detached Missile Corps, since April 23, 1970–33 rd Missile Army) Aviation Department Routine Military Duty and Military Service Security Department Radiation, Chemical, Biological Defence Service Meteorological Service Missile Division Combat Training Department

Table 2 (continue)

	Nuclear Support Department Administrative and Economic Department
Since 1971	Electronic Welfare Service Special Service
Since 1978	Comprehensive Technical Control Hub State Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance Centre
Since 1990	Detached Counter-Sabotage Company
[1993–1994]	5352 nd Armament and Equipment Storage Base
Since 1992	Nuclear Safety Service
1993–[2005]	180 th Detached Motorized Rifle Brigade (military unit 14892) Headquarters Communication Battalion Air Defence Missile Division Intelligence Company
Since 2006	Missile Army Administration Press Service

of special interest. The first constructed part of the building, made in E-shape, was erected as a guardhouse, according to the indirect data, by the year 1910. In the first Soviet years, the building was the Commandment Club. In the cellar, there was a boiler used to heat the building and the nearby houses. In 1940–1947, new annexes were built: a library in the north and an assembly hall in the south. In 1960, the building was handed over to the 7th Detached Missile Corps. As the military unit 43189 got accommodated, the cultural establishment was rearranged into the 85th Garrison Officers' Club, which for the next 50 years became the cultural centre of the entire microdistrict. It offered the locals studios, hobby classes, a cinema, various creative workshops, cultural and leisure activities (Omskaia gvardeyskaia..., 2009: 346–349). In 1985, the club underwent a “semi-overhaul”: the metal roofing was replaced with roofing slate, the main entrance was reconstructed. In 2015, the 85th Garrison Officers' Club became the club of the military unit 77112.

It is worthwhile emphasizing that in the Soviet period the architectural space of the microdistrict south-east was developed, mostly, around the Officers' Club building. The first Soviet five-story building (the brick block of 40 apartments, 1972) is located far from the club. In the years 1974–1976, the development of the territories adjacent to the club began: on the southern side, three panel five-story blocks of 70 apartments were built (No. 404, 406, 408) to accommodate the Motorized Rifle Regiment officers.

Among the Soviet buildings in the territory of the 16th Military Town, two brick five-story blocks of 60 apartments, erected in front of the park by the Officers' Club in

1978–1979, are of greatest interest. The apartments in the residential buildings No. 415 and No. 416 were made for the families of the senior officers of the Strategic Missile Forces. These “twin houses” of series 85 were significantly different from the rest of the housing estate of the microdistrict. The non-standard vast corridors and isolated rooms allowing for partial rearrangements, 1–2 enclosed balconies, large storage closets in some rooms, wide vestibules (2 apartments per floor), garbage chutes were not typical for the traditional “Khrushchev-era” and “Brezhnev-era” apartments. As the construction of these houses was completed, the Soviet period of the 16th Military Town begins. The last “stroke” was mapped in 1983: by the entrance into the microdistrict, near the 1st Raz’ezd Str., the five-story panel house No. 426 was built. Until 2000, no more housing was constructed in the microdistrict. By expanding the housing estate, the CCD was developing the infrastructure of the 33rd Missile Army Headquarters. In 1960-s — 1980s, in the territory of the military unit, a hotel (overlooking Orlovskogo Str.), a computing centre, a medical unit, a bath house, some warehouses were built (Omskaia strategicheskaiia..., 1999: 69–70).

For decades, residents of the south-eastern part of the microdistrict did not have any motorway or pedestrian connection to the main transport artery of Omsk, Marx Avenue: the road would bump into the fences of the Motorized Rifle and Missile Forces. The problem was aggravated when the new multiple-story houses were built. As a result, in the years 1988–1989 a paved pedestrian road (known as “passage-through” among the locals) between the fences of the military units was arranged to connect the microdistrict to the housing estates in the streets Angarskaya, Bratskaya, Kotovskogo and Orlovskogo. The “passage-through” existed until 2000. Now, a residential house (No. 3, Orlovskogo Str.) stands there. The only fragment of the way, untouched by the construction campaigns of the 2000-s, was the area from the former Motorized Rifle Unit checkpoint to the Strategic Missile Forces fence, along the façade of the house No. 416. A proper motorway between the south-eastern part of the microdistrict and Marx Avenue still does not exist.

By the 1980-s, the wooden building of the closed kindergarten in the park in front of the Officers’ Club was demolished, but the park itself and the playground with wooden figures remained for 15 more years. At the place of the demolished building, a sports ground was organized. Now, one- floor grocery pavilions built in the 2000-s stand there.

Until the 2000-s, the microdistrict retained its Soviet “patriarchal” looks, but the 1990-s made an impact on the life of the 16th Military Town. The key feature of the Post-Soviet period of history was the destruction of its wholeness, isolation and

confinement. The state-owned apartments were privatized; the retired officers' families sold their properties and left. Civilians had always lived in the microdistrict before, but in the 1990-s there occurred the greatest inflow of the non-military in the past one hundred years. It changed the established traditions and transformed the look of the microdistrict. The town became an open space, which opened the gates to vandalism; within a short period of time, the wooden playground in the park by the club was destroyed, other buildings and landscaped areas were damaged.

In 1997, the “successor” of the Soviet Motorized Rifle Units, military unit 14892, was transformed into the 139th Armament and Equipment Storage Base (repositioned to the 14th Military Town), and its territories (southern part of the microdistrict) were allocated to construction. In 2000–2009, private companies erected a “business-class” housing estate (houses No. 3, 5, Orlovskogo Str.; No. 19, 19/2, Bratskaya Str.) and a garage co-op. During the construction, some pre-revolution period houses (including the one-story soldiers' canteen built in the 1910-s) were demolished. In this part of the microdistrict, only one old building remained standing: the currently abandoned barrack of 1913 (the exterior and interior stone walls survived in the fires of 2012 and 2014). The CCD of the 33rd Missile Army resumed construction of blocks of apartments for the military; in 2001–2005, in the former territory of the military unit 14892 two five-story houses (No. 21, 21A, Bratskaya Str.) and a ten-story block of 250 apartments (No. 461) were built. Since 2009, no housing estate has been built in the microdistrict. On December 19, 2013, in the territory of the military unit 44025 the Monument to the Military Counter-Intelligence Officers was erected (Pakhomov, 2013).

The territory of the 16th Military Town today is a unique space in need for comprehensive historical, cultural studies and conservation. The territory still keeps around 20 historical, predominantly stone buildings, including residential houses, barracks, administrative buildings and warehouses. Some of them stand in the open housing estates. As of December 18, 2015, the buildings are listed among the heritage sites of historical and cultural value, expecting to get the status of state-preserved buildings. The unauthorized annexes and reconstruction of the historical sites make a devastating impact on the historical architectural ensemble (due to the poor physical condition of some buildings). The other architectural sites are located within the closed territory occupied by the military units. This circumstance makes their studies impossible.

Throughout its history, the 16th Military Town in Omsk has always remained a sought-for, specific member of the urban environment, manifesting all stages of the

20th century's city planning. The analysis of its development draws the conclusion on close interconnection between the microdistrict construction and the disposition of military forces. The number of the military units located here in the Soviet time was qualitatively and quantitatively growing, acting as the main driver for changing the look of the Military Town. It was mostly associated with the disposition of the elite Strategic Missile Forces Headquarters, which contributed to the high requirements to the accommodation level.

At the same time, the arrangement of special infrastructure, lifestyle and routine of the Military Town was caused by the service duties and military culture. Having found itself within the city borders after the war, the microdistrict, surrounded by typical old "civilian quarters" of the 1950–1960-s, retained the distinctive features of a "military microdistrict": minimalistic infrastructure, inaccessibility for public transport, specific daily schedule, for many years remaining a formally open, but actually a "half-secret" space.

The uneven development of the microdistrict (capital construction of the 1910-s, 1960–1980-s, the barrack construction of the 1920–1930-s, the recession of the 1990-s) caused the close neighbourhood of a diversity of buildings, for a century being populated by representatives of one and the same trade. In the 2000-s, the civilian inflow made a powerful impact on the habitual lifestyle, but the microdistrict residents still value their traditional professional and friendly communication.

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16-й Военный городок в Омске: опыт историко-культурного изучения городского пространства

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В публикации представлен ранее не исследованный специалистами аспект региональной истории, связанный с возникновением, развитием и бытностью 16-го Военного городка в Омске. Дана связь поставленного вопроса с историографией проблемы в масштабах Сибирского региона. Целью работы является изучение истории 16-го Военного городка в Омске, для чего решаются комплексные задачи. Авторами проанализированы этапы застройки микрорайона, выделены факторы, оказавшие на это влияние. Рассмотрена смена дислокации войск в микрорайоне в контексте локальной истории. Используется комплекс источников (в основу которого легли неопубликованные документы из фондов Исторического архива Омской области и адресно-справочные издания), с помощью которых восстановлены, насколько это возможно, этапы истории и застройки Военного городка, а также дислокации в нем воинских частей. Это позволяет с позиций истории и культурологии сделать вывод об уникальности 16-го Военного городка как историко-культурного пространства городской среды.

Ключевые слова: военные городки, воинские части, Первая мировая война, Гражданская война, СССР, РККА, Советская армия, РВСН, микрорайон, краеведение.

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