

The First Investigations of Britains in Trepça's Mine in Stan Terg

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Abstract: The historical importance of Trepça's Mine in Stanterg is a big as it's impossible to describe it in on only study work. However I have tried to describe it in historical, economical and social character, since the past period if Trepca till the 20th century, when in Trepca began the first investigations in 1926 by England, and later in the 30ties of this century when the modern exploration of Trepca started, since the beginning there were some movements which lasted till 1939. In 1941, Trepca fell in the German's hands, which led it till the end of the Second World War. In the end of this study I have treated Trepca as a very big giant in which were found about 6 million mine as leaden and cink in the above mentioned periods.

Keywords: Trepca Mine, Miners Strike, Trepca's employees, Britain

1. Introduction

About the searches and the investigations in Trepça's Mine, different authors say that they have begun earlier since 1906, the investigations and searches of lead and cink in Trepça were done by the company "The international Russian Corporation "which was interested and tempted by Trepça".

There are some documents which prove that Trepça was established in 1926. The author Vasilie Simiq in his book named *Istoriski razvoji maseg rudarstva* "(Historical divides of our Mines)" proves those documents (Simic, 1951, p. 16). The same opinion comes also by B. Bushevic in his work named "Trepça's Mine"² But, according to the Economic archive of Trepca, which contains over 40

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² Bluscevic, *Rudarstva Trepce/Mining Trepce*. Beograd, p. 3.

thousand documents, it is noted that the establishment of Trepca was exactly on 19th of December, 1927.¹

In the beginning of the 20th century, Great Britain has represented the world's most powerful industry.

The mine was the most important industrial activity of them. In 20ies, British had been allowed to enter in Central and Eastern Europe Trade.

By the period of English leading in "Trepca" there were build many living places around. (Osmani, 2003, p. 112)

In 1924 geolges have found many places which were identified as mines .They also found many leader reserves, which would be used till the beging of the Second World War. So, based on these notes, by the Society "Selection Trust LTD", in the 9th December was established "Trepca Mines limited" which leated till the end of the war .

The company named "Trepca", for the first time was registred in London, in December 9th 1927 (Dauti, 2002, p. 19). By the documents of Kosovo Archive it is seen that the modern treatment of Trepca has started in 1927 were begins the live of nowadays Trepca. The author Daut Dauti in his book "The flower of Trepca" wrote that the first documents about Trepca in British period were written by Robocca Vesti.

He explained that that British period Trepca begun when they bought the concessions of it in 1927, and erds in 1948. "Trepca" as company has been over in function in 1960, when the company was sent in the judge in London with Pashiq. (Dauti, 2002, p. 9).

2. The Company "Trepca Mines Limited"

This company "Trepca Mines Limited" was lead in the territory of Stanterg, about 8km in south – Westen part of Mitrovica. The space for searches and investigations was very big, so the British have named it the zone of Vardar.

The registration document of the TML Company, in London on September 27, 1929, is in the archive of Kosovo.¹

¹ Economic Archive of Trepca – Zvecan - Horizon opening fund, p. 17.
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The mines which existed in Stan terg, were washed in Zvecan, by using the elater which in 1930ties had about 67 baskets.

Each basket was about 802 kg. The distance between the baskets was 134 m (Dauti, 2002, p. 9). "Trepca Mines Limited" Company started the production in December 1930. During this period there were many economic problems because the prices got lower and lower everyday. The unemployment was increasing and the company brought the opportunity to decrease the number of the unemployed.

Alfred Chester Bitti, the chairman of the "Selection Trust Limited" has obviously shown an optimistic idea to collect the regular earnings of the year by the company. It brought many goods and since the beginning till 1941 it was so industrious. When the Germans got the leading of it, it was noticed that there was a big amount of leaden (about 6 million) and about 720 thousand T cink, pirit, etc. (Rilindja, & Ivanovic, 1979, p. 20).

In 1938 it was consulted that "Trepca" had about 300 thousand T mines let's go back a few years earlier. (Dauti, 2002, pp. 9-10).

The beginning of the Second World War brought many changes in "Trepca". In 1941, Germany attacked Yugoslavia, and destroyed its economy.

German forces entered in Trepca 17th of April. They occupied the whole territory, especially those places where the mines existed. (Group Authors, 1971, p. 10)

The leaders of Trepca during the British period were W.M. Kirkpatrick, the director, A. Hmoreing and Bewick the general manager. The company was registered in this address: Trepca Mines Limited Selected Trust building Mason's Avenue Coleman Street London ECD.

3. "Trepca" Was Registered As Actionary Company

There have invested about 1.500 lawyers and employees, most of them were British. However there were also many French, German and Albanian employees. Two of the investors who were mentioned were Ibrahim Deva and his son Xhafer, who were the richest people in Mitrovica those days. In the mine hasn't worked for a long time.

¹ Archive of Kosovo, "Trepca's fund" inbox, no 23.

In 1929, the capacities of a day were 900t, but in 1930 it was raised in 1000T. (Dragan, 1974, p. 19)

In June 1929 there were done some calculations about the Trepca's reserves, were existed about 1.750.000 t Mines, consisting 11.5%; eaden, 10,5% cink, etc. (Group Authors, 1971, p. 10)

In order to increase the infrastructure based on the British standards, the company has bought a land where will be built the colony. The other part of the land will be used for the rubbish. (Dragan, 1974, p. 17)

The investigations were done around Melenica, where were drawn some geologic maps. These investigations were done by "ERBOF GEOPHYSICAL COMPANY" in April 1930. It was also done a pilot-test to find out the compounds of the mine. The results shown that the mines were not as rich in other parts as they were in Treoca.

The production has started in 1930 by the bringing the machines and training of the Selanik employees.

Based on these investigations, the space from Stan Terg to the Gumnisht village, was consisting about 10.000 working areas, which were there since the Roman period and still existed. (Dush, 2002, p. 433)

In 1931, the railway to Kraveva was finished and the road from Mitrovica to Peja was built.

In the British leading period of Trepca, Albanians were considered as much respected miners. (Dauti, 2002, p. 43)

Mr. Mac had a sympathy and good opinion for Albanian miners, even though there were many Serbian, Croatian, Bosnian, Russian, miners, too.

Robecca West wrote that Mr. Mac liked the Albanian miners as they were his sons, because they always tried to be in step of hard working and saved Trepca's property as it was their own.

When Rade Pashiq postponed the investigations, there was formed a society "Trepca Mines Limited" which was not legally registered in December, 9, 1927. (Dush, 2002, p. 433)

It was discovered that Trepca was sold by his wife Gurginia and their son Radomir Pashiq.

In the end it was found out that the right of investigations and leading Trepca was in the hands of Radomir, even though it was hard to be changed. (Rilindja, & Ivanovic, 1979, p. 20)

The company "Selection Trust Limited" has established the society "Trepca Mines Limited" where were insured about 107,500 pounds. This fund was used only in the end of 1928. (Rilindja, & Ivanovic, 1979, p. 16)

In March 1929, the leaders of the society which was in London, have decided to raise the capital in 1.000.000 sterlins, which means about 275 milion dinar, this capital was used for infrastructure in Zvecan, which ended in August 1930, and offically was opened on the 10th of October that year.

In order to be more flexible and to have direct contact with Belgrade, there was established a representative office in 1928, which was a supervising body of the Trepca's work.

During 1931, was opened a new horizon about 610 m, with 2x2 profile and connected the Stanterg with First Tunel (Tuneli I pare). In 1935, was built the third horizon which was about 45m and the fourth one about 435m¹.

In the beginning there were about 600 employees in only four areas, but later there were more than 2700. (Dush, 2002, p. 21)

The regular producement has started on the 15th of august 1930, when most of the mines were sent to Selanic by train, in order to produce them because the melter in Trepca wasn't built yet.

In May, 12 1931, was finished the "Tunel" which was named the "First Tunel" because British leaders had planned to build more of them.

In 1935, five years later, British manugment was able to get all the spendings from the producement and to increase the capital at about 200 thousand pounds. It's important to mention that 1T of mines were produced in Trepca in 1935 and it cost about silings where as in Australia in Forest Hill Company the same mount cast 300 silings. (Dush, 2002, p. 21)

¹ Economic Archive of Trepca – Zvecan - Horizon opening fund, p. 17.

The British company brought a big profit to Trepca, so, till 1941 it had more than 6 million tonnes of ore, which had a very good quality. In 1928, there were approximately 300 thousand tonnes of ore. (Rilindja, & Ivanovic, 1979, p. 17)

The leading council of Trepca, was elected in the 8th meeting of "Trepca Mines Limited" which was held in November 25, 1935 in London.

This council had 10 to 12 members, and the director of it was Trepca's director of the Yugoslavia in London.

It is interesting that the point 118 of the mining status was changed, and based on the new point, the director could create laws and from the team however he wants, by changing the members of it and replacing them with others.

It was also interesting how it became possible to use the electric central in 1934-1935 which would allow Trepca to produce by that capacity, and that central would work 365 days on 887,059 hours in order to produce over 20 million kw per hour, and spend about 50, 388 tonnes of coal. Some documents also show that Trepca has some sport teams, and in 1935 it had an aeroclub where were membered 117 employees. (Rilindja, & Ivanovic, 1979, pp. 17-18)

Conclusion

By making a deep analysis of the archive sources, we can easily conclude that the historical importance of "Trepca Mine" in Stanterg was considerably big in economic, political, social aspects, this was noticed since the early periods of Trepca till nowadays, especially during the 20th century.

In the beginning of 20th century Britain has started the investigations in Trepca. These searches have started in 1926, but the modern treatment of Trepca began in the 30ties of this century, which was followed by some syndical movements before and after the Second World War.

The bought of Trepca's Mine by the SKS Kingdom was done by the concession of England and it affected the revitalization of it just because the Yugoslav Kingdom couldn't invest in it.

By the beginning of the war the international relationship has changed and in 1941 the Mine of Trepca became led by Germans till 1944, when we can notice a return of Britain since after war to 1948.

In this period was done the nationalization of the properties in Yugoslavia and Trepca become a state property, and as a change Yugoslavia have about 4.5 million pounds to Britain.

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