

THE LAST RANK OF I. I. POLZUNOV

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ABSTRACT

The reproduced article belongs to one of the most known researchers of the engineering heritage of Ivan Polzunov, published in 2009 in Polzunov Almanac.

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In the works of the main researchers of I. I. Polzunov – V. V. Danilevsky, I. Ya. Konfederatov, V. S. Virginsky, N. Ya. Savelyev – there are certain inaccuracies, assumptions about various facts of biography and the creative path of the inventor. This is understandable, since new sources are revealed and there is a need for their reinterpretation.

During the Second Polzunov's readings, it was necessary to say that the local historian N. Ya. Saveliev uncritically accepted the interpretation of the previous historiography about the title of «mechanical student» and the year of I. I. Polzunov's promotion to a new job position, about his «work experience» (see «Polzunov's readings of 1989» Barnaul, 1989, p. 19). Soon after those readings, a book by V. S. Virginsky «I. I. Polzunov» (Moscow, Nauka, 1989), appeared in which the same provisions are negotiated, see pp. 28–29.

In 1736 Polzunov was admitted to «philological» school, in 1738 was transferred to the «arithmetic» school. He finished the full course, since in 1747 the annual salary was 6 rubles. All right. «And when the mechanic N. Bakhorev needed, instead of «incomprehensible» pupils, good assistants, on February 19, 1742, the Office issued a ruling on the transfer of I. Polzunov and S. Cheremisinov to mechanical students. The salary of Polzunov was set in the amount of half a ruble for a month (the same 6 rubles a year)». Assistant of Bakhorev was «I. I. Susorov since 1742», and «except for Polzunov and Cheremisinov, mechanical students under the guidance of Bakhorev and Susorov were since 1735 Stepan Kostromin and Yakov Morozov». In the autumn of 1747 A. Beer arrived in Yekaterinburg and selected specialists for factories in Altaisky mountainous district: «He asked to give him unter-mechanic Kostromin to the position of hittenschreiber, i.e. a person who, in his opinion, had more experience in factory affairs than a «mechanical student» Polzunov. Polzunov did after all» (p. 36).

Let's consider and explain. S. Virginsky, referring to these names, refers to the Ural explorer A. G. Kozlov; we see what is said about them in his book «Creators of Science and Technology in the Urals» (Sverdlovsk, 1981). I. I. Susorov, born in 1721, was appointed as a mechanical student to Bakhorev in 1735, and while still a student, he produced a scales for his own model for the Alapaev factory office in 1740 (pp. 135–136). From February 1742 (note) he was appointed as a machine apprentice, and from November 1744 he taught at a mining school, in 1746 he was given the rank of unterschichtmeister, later – schichtmeister.

S. F. Kostromin born in 1719, from June 1735 was promoted to «mechanical students» to Bakhorev, later schichtmeister mechanic, S. T. Cheremisinov, born in 1725, began his service as a mechanical student in the beginning of 1742 (at the same time as Polzunov), approved as unterschichtmeister in 1751. According to the regulations on the mining school (see the book «One Hundred Years of the Mining School in the Urals», Sverdlovsk, 1948), it had three stages: philological, arithmetic, and marked. In the first, all

children were trained, for the second, dozens were selected, in the third, 4–6 people were involved. But the third stage as such did not exist, the most capable ones were sent to high specialists for complete education: 1 (rarely 2) – to a doctor, 1–2(3) to mining specialists, 1–2 (3) – to a mechanic. Therefore, in 1742, Bakhorev's former mechanic students were promoted to specialists and positions, and new ones were sent to him – Polzunov and Cheremisinov. V. S. Virginsky reports (p. 36) that Beer at the end of 1747 required under mechanic Kostromin, i.e., he was no longer a «mechanical student», but had a specialty. Further the fact that Polzunov was not in a job position, but was a student until the end of 1747 is confirmed by «salary», the promotion of an employee from one specialty to another led to a change in salary. It was mandatory. According to V. S. Virginsky, Polzunov went from «arithmeticians» to «mechanics» with the same salary, that is, he was listed by school. Susorov could teach Polzunov only from the end of 1744.

However, there was a misunderstanding with the salary of «mechanical student», and V. V. Danilevsky quotes the document, but he draws other conclusions (the book «I. I. Polzunov. Work and Life», Moscow–Leningrad, 1940). Here is an excerpt: «mechanical students Cheremisinov and Polzunov should be considered to be with the salary assigned to the Perm administration and the salary should be given from one – for they are also sent to science (not in the position – A.S.) for sending to the authorities (that is, at the disposal to whom they were sent)». Another: «Upon request from the Treasury Office, it was signed that Cheremisinov and Polzunov, from sending them to mechanical science, from February until now (July 1742), did not receive salary – for the above-written, that they were not included in the staff and the list sent at the decree in Treasury office». What's the matter? It is very simple: the school is under Yekaterinburg plant, and they were sent «to science» (and not just continue studying), i.e., as we said in our time – sent to pre-diploma practice – to Bakhorev, the mechanic of the entire district (and the office is different: money apart).

Wrong reading of the documents led V. Danilevsky to an unflattering and prejudiced assessment of A. V. Beer's actions: Major-General Beer was very reluctant to take Polzunov to the hittenschreiber, as evidenced by the text of his complaint to the empress. Beer was clearly outraged that when he demanded unter mechanic Kostromin to be hittenschreiber, some «mechanical student» Polzunov was imposed to him. Apparently, this particularly irritated Beer, who brought Polzunov first in the list of «offenses» inflicted on him – the empress's own emissary – by officials from Yekaterinburg office... The Chancellery stubbornly held its ground; asserting, according to Beer, that «it was deemed to be represented in the Berg-Collegium, that it should be determined from itself or deservingly accurate (i.e., the corresponding replacement – A. S.), but on that from that collegium no decree has been received» (p. 58). Such





Ivan I. Polzunov.

misunderstandings now pass from book to book. Without going into the form of the letter (and hence the content and the meaning), this distorts the notion of not only Beer, but also about Polzunov, and about the «officials» of that time.

What does A. V. Bear refer to? In the decree of May 1, 1747, there is point 8, where it is determined whom, how many and where to get specialists from. I have to rewrite it completely, because it is incorrectly reprinted in the book «Altai History in Documents and Materials» (Barnaul, 1991, p. 53, document No. 39). Text «8». «For management of those factory works, it is your duty to take to you from Yekaterinburg the assessor Andrei Poroshin, the vicemarkscheider Herich, the geodesist Pimen Startsov, and write the geodesy warrant officer and with him the pupil Ivan Denisov from the clerks to the accountants of one who will appear one clerical officer, two under-chancellors, four copyists, two writers, two school pupils to medicinal students, two hittenschreibers, unterschteger Ivan Babin, fifty berggauer, and in that number, people from Olonets for which there is no work for their positions, to take from the Tula arms factories the clerk Vasily Shcherbakov and give him the position of a secretary» (see GAAK, p. 1, item 1, d. 1, sheet 64–70). It can be seen that one of the specialists is indicated personally, others have a common account. Someone, as can be seen from the list (and it was published by V. V. Danilevsky, p. 57), Beer managed to take «over that», or «instead of that»: «Assessor Andrei Poroshin is a surveyor (who is written as geodesy warrant officer), Pimen Startsov, geodesy student Ivan Denisov. Departmental employees: clerk Vasily Pastukhov, junior clerk Fedor Bugryshev, Afonasy Popov, copyists Ivan Kuznetsov, Vasily Filenkov, Yuda Gulyaev, Xenophon Golubtsov, writers Semen Popov, Semyon Nikonov, smelter Friedrich Ber, scheiteger Kachka, unterchsteiger Ivan Babin, instead of hittenschreibers Ivan Polzunov from mechanical students; Ivan Okuloskov, Mikhailo Uosoltsov to medicinal students. Berggauer...».

It is very simple and clearly written that, contrary to the requirements of the decree of May 1, 1747, «instead of» the hittenschreiber a student is recorded. This is how Beer described the facts to the empress, if sometime someone suddenly needs to check

(inspect) the execution of the decree: he was obliged to indicate whom «instead» he took, with him...

On December 31, 1747, Polzunov received the first post of the hittenschreiber, and exactly 10 years later, as it should be in accordance with the staff order, that is, on December 31, 1757, he was introduced to the first class rank. Only due to the fact that he had a full technical education, he was introduced to the rank in time, and that he was a very competent specialist – he was then appointed for one rank higher, schichtmeister of 3rd class.

Some clarification must be done about the trip of I. I. Polzunov to the capital. As in V. V. Danilevsky (pp. 111–123), and in N. Ya. Saveliev (pp. 54–57) this event in the life of our fellow countryman is described in a separate paragraph. In the State Archive of Altai region, the «case» No. 187 (p. 1, op. 1) is kept under the title «Determination of the Chancellery of Kolyvan-Voskresensky plants in the Cabinet about the quantity of melted silver...», and inside, with 248 sheets a separate case dossier was written with the title «On silver sent to St. Petersburg by the newly-founded dragoon regiment, Captain Adam Shirman and unterschichtmeister Ivan Polzunov smelted in 1757» (p. 340). The study of the documents of the annual carts with silver for 30 years (1748–1777) allows me to say that a kind of clerical and performing standard and custom was worked out, and yet the «business» about the journey of Polzunov differs in many respects from previous series of features. Until now, the carts were headed by one responsible officer – captain, sergeant, army officer, if by the time of departure the departure of any mining official to the Cabinet of Ministers was not timed, whether he was dismissed or for other purposes, then he headed the carts. But two years ago, the Cabinet demanded that a mining specialist of officer rank be sent with a silver wagon, for there was a need to ask him about the state of mining production. But there were few mining officers, let alone specialists, only four people (excluding the members of the Chancellery Christiani and Ulich), of which markschreider P. Startsov controlled the Zmeinogorsky mine, the rest «are located near the parishes and expenses of the monetary treasury cannot be received in any way». It is impossible to entrust silver wagons to unterschichtmeisters. How to be!?

The ruler I. S. Christiani demanded the secondment of captain A. Shirman. Colonel Devilenov agreed, and Christiani calmed him: «Too, he Shirman does not know about the mining and factory operations at the local plants, and maybe during his arrival in St. Petersburg in the highest Her Imperial Majesty Cabinet he will be asked about the factories and mining works, he cannot give an answer whatsoever for the sake of sending him out from the mining specialists, although one of the undermasters is the one who would have known about the mining and factory operations in the Highest His Imperial Majesty Cabinet, if anything is asked clearly and extensively, he could, to what here the Office will recognize unterschichtmeister Polzunov capable». Ivan Polzunov was to take silver from the board and «silver and gold in the team and look to instruct Captain Shirman», all he took was 221 poods of 4 pounds 41 spindles of blicksilver (silver) and 1 pood of 24 pounds 69 gold spools. It was supposed to be 2 horses for Shirman and 1 for Polzunov, the remaining 21 for cargo and soldiers (21 people). In the instruction to Shirman it is said that upon arrival in St. Petersburg «to order Polzunov to hand over everything; to get receipts, and when they are released, then grab rush

to come here and hand over all the receipts and other things». And once again, it is discussed: «And if it is your negligence, what will be lost or what kind of silver and other damage is done about that in all, you are to blame for answer, and not someone else».

It seems clear – the captain is responsible for everything. However, silver was received under the signature by Polzunov, money for the expense of moving the carts, changing horses, food, to purchase supplies for the Chancellery in the amount of 906 rubles 12 kopeks were handed to him, and at the same time the captain was punished: «to look after Polzunov, so that he could not spend that money for his whim, just like running». Polzunov was told: «To appear to Captain Shirman and be in his team...», but the money is stored behind two seals of Shirman and Polzunov, one of them is used by Polzunov. Point No. 12 of the instruction: «And in all that business you have done well as a kind and faithful His Imperial Majesty servant in his former position for the good deeds of a merciful reward, and for dishonorable cruel torture – December 31 day 1757». In the beginning there were words: and for dishonorable fined, but crossed out and inscribed: cruel torture. Shirman will only «answer», and Polzunov – savagely beat. And then, after Christiani's signature, written with Polzunov's hand: «underschichtmeister Ivan Polzunov accepted and signed» (p. 294). The carts departed on January 1, 1758 at five o'clock in the evening, and on the 3rd at 9 am they arrived in the Berdsky prison (Berdsk – before the current Novosibirsk). The carts moved very fast, for Shirman was commanded to «follow day and night with a great haste, not far off anywhere in considerable time except time for feeding horses – horses must not be exhausted...».

The first feature: two uniformly (but unequally) were responsible for the carts, and only one of them was an officer – this was not the custom for subordination: in other words, Office valued Polzunov highly. Another – reports on the way back to Barnaul, with two signatures, Shirman and Polzunov, which had not yet happened, from January 3 from the Berdsky prison, on January 7 from Kainsky, on January 11 from Tara, on January 23 from Tobolsk.

They arrived in the capital on March 6. From the Cabinet they wrote to Barnaul: «... silver and the other are accepted, captain Shirman and 10 soldiers were sent back, money for runs for four carts was given out, and Polzunov and with him a corporal and one soldier were left here to buy supplies to him, and on the execution of this and the mentioned Polzunov will depart immediately» (p. 335). Here is the third feature: Captain Shirman was immediately sent back, and Polzunov was left, – contrary to the instructions of the ruler Christiani. Undoubtedly, this can be explained by the fact that I. I. Polzunov has already been seen by the Cabinet, he is in good standing, and he will become an ober-officer tomorrow, he brought a document about this with him. Captain Shirman returned to Barnaul on August 14, alone, the soldiers made their own way, and Polzunov returned home on October 30...

Now it makes sense to trace what rank of I. I. Polzunov had by the time of his death. In books he is called a mining engineer, mining mechanic, engineer-captain and even staff captain. On November 19, 1763 Catherine II approved for him a completely original position – the rank: «grant him to the mechanics with the rank and salary of the engineering staff lieutenant». We had to deal more or less in detail with this complex



Monument in Barnaul.

definition, publish two tables (see «Polzunov's readings of 1989», pp. 7–11), there was also a doubt expressed: «The rank of mining arose later than Table about ranks, and it was not immediately possible to place him in the corresponding step. However, the granted rank of captain-lieutenant «firmly» corresponds to 10th class, the rank of the mechanic «passes» to the next 11th class, and corresponds to the dignity of «captain's rank». Moreover, I. A. Shlatter proposed a new mining post for burg mechanics, which «exceeded» the next class». In other words, this hinted at the rank of major. Neither can one agree with V. S. Virginsky when he categorically – in the main text, not in the appendices – claimed: «For clarity, let us clarify that the promised rank of mechanics corresponded to the rank of lieutenant», p. 87. There is no doubt: the mining rank of schichtmeister of 13th class, and not the mechanic, corresponded to the military second lieutenant.

The ambiguity of the restoration of mining ranks to the corresponding class of Table about the ranks is also evidenced by the decree of May 1, 1747, issued here. It can be assumed that soldiers of privileged regiments (mainly from impoverished noble families) are transferred to the mining service as schichtmeister officers. But how to reconcile the decision of Ekaterina Petrovna: she promoted lieutenant A. Bulgakov, to the captain-lieutenant of the guards, and then – to schichtmeisters? Here «insert» the will of her daughter in the Table of the ranks of the father! What was it like to read for Alexey Bulgakov such a «fall»? The nobility did not go to the mining service, in any way. And then the captain-lieutenant guard to schichtmeisters. Therefore, it is not surprising that when Catherine II nominated Chicherin the Siberian governor-general, he always signed the documents with triple dignity: «The Siberian Governor D. I. Chicherin, lieutenant-general, Premier Major» (GAAC, p. 1, op. 1, d. 629, No. 124, d. 339, sheet 8, ed. 777, No. 87).

In the «case» No. 426 of Fund No. 1 of our GAAC, there is a folder «Reports and signatures of students ... and a list of officers...». Here it is well traced that Barnaul High School, like Yekaterinburg, has a three-tier structure: here is an excellent document dated March 24, 1764 – the oath of I. I. Chernitsyn – the son of a pupil and fellow member I. I. Polzunov for the construction of the machine, as well as his students Dm. Levzin, F. Ovchinnikov, P. Vyatchenin about their promotion to unter-schichtmeister.



But from sheet 353 documents on ranks are filed. It is known that on January 12, 1761, Elizaveta Petrovna approved a decree on equating mining ranks to military ranks – according to the artillery department, that is, above the infantry regiments in salaries and other «rations». In particular, they were given funds not only for the day workers, but also for the year-round maintenance of the crew, «for traveling and moving from factory to factory» for business purposes. If there is a special business trip, there are state runs. In autumn, the decree was brought to Barnaul by the Chief District Officer, now Major General A. I. Poroshin. Undoubtedly, the decree was of great importance in the consolidation of staff, now mining officers, in this remote corner of Russia. Very soon, on December 3, 1761, the first, it is possible to say, officers' meeting was formed, a class club of mining officers arose and it existed all the time. (Properly speaking, the class corporation was founded by a decree of May 1, 1747, in paragraph 11. It was said here that Beer alone can award specialists «for encouragement of others for the good and thorough fulfillment of their duties». And vice versa, he could punish only with the «collective» decision: «On the contrary, those who are defective and negligent in their affairs or in drunkenness and other direct situations without correcting stay, those who have to pay their salaries and have lower their ranks until the corrections are made and so the defector then into a simple mining work will be used – all these things should be done at the truth without any bias and with the consent and signature of all mining officers»). So, at the meeting, a collective letter was sent to the Cabinet of Her Highest Majesty. «The report from the collegiate advisers Christiani, Ulich and the chief officers of Al. Ghan with comrades». They wrote that they had long been appointed as officers, and now they are asking «to issue the first patent from the Cabinet for the money they have received». The document has graphs, for Ivan Polzunov it is indicated: «schichtmeister – now in what rank the person is as compared to the artillery and engineering: the bayonet-junker. By a personal decree as compared to the field ranks with whom is equal: the sub-lieutenant».

On December 29, 1761 with a cover letter A. Poroshin sent «Report» to Petersburg.

But only on June 4, 1763 in Barnaul a notice was received that «patents for production will be sent forward as soon as possible». This «speed» dragged on for another two years. Exhausted officers met on January 29, 1765, and again created the «Report». They complained that they still do not have uniforms, they wear civilian dress, they cannot be distinguished from the craftsmen, and that's why they obey poorly, they are mocked, and from other military commands «although not explicitly, but in the guise of other roundabouts» they give them contempt. This time A. I. Poroshin signed under the «Report». The list was revised, now Ulich and Christiani became colonels, oberberghmeister I. I. Lebube was the major; I. Polzunov was indicated as the captain-lieutenant (as Catherine II ordered), but the schichtmeister D. Golovin (promoted to schichtmeisters at the same time as Polzunov) is designated as a bayonet-junker, or engineer ensign, i.e., a schichtmeister of 14th class, below Polzunov for one class in the first promotion. In due time bayonet-junker I. Polzunov was specified as sub-lieutenant. K. D. Frolov is registered as an obersteiger and a schichtmeister, however, to his rank was not indicated. Hittenfervalter Alexander Yelagin was sent to St. Petersburg, and only on November 29, 1765, patents were brought to Barnaul. Here business went more quickly, already on December, 5 it was

decided, to whom and how much to pay for the patent. And as it happens – Ivan Ivanovich Polzunov was not on the list.

Reading the documents in a row, I was not particularly surprised at the thought that while the «matter» is moving – time is running – I. I. Polzunov died, and he is not on the list (he has four months and eleven days to live, but we know this, and then-where?). But on the back of 366 pages there is a postscript «... and Polzunov completely missed». In December 1765 Ivan Ivanovich barely moved, he lived next to his machine, about two versts above the plant, drove the car «to mind», on April 21, 1766, dictated to his student Ivan Chernysyn a petition in the name of the empress asking him to release him from his being the head of construction of the machine.

Missed Polzunov was not included in the list, but his place was in the second group when sending to Petersburg; the first ranks included I. G. Ulich, I. S. Christiani, I. I. Lebube, and then the oberofficers were listed: obergattenfervalter Alexander Gan, bergmeister Ivan Kuznetsov, Obergittenfervalter Ivan Chernitsyn, and immediately, but through point: «mechanic Ivan Polzunov», and then after a new point – markschreider. Here is the question: where, in which group is the «mechanic» Polzunov included? It is clear that in oberofficers, but he is separate from the list of markschreiders, although they are also of the captain's rank. But he is not registered in the line with other peers with him on the Table of Ranks, that is, bergmeister – obergittenfervalter. Especially in the postscript on the backside it is said that «from him it is necessary to collect as from the markschreiders that amount as against the name Chernitsyn». And from Chernitsyn and Kuznetsov for uniforms regalia it is necessary to collect 40 rubles, and for office and service trouble another 3 rubles 40 k. On sheet 367 in the column that he received the patent it is written: Mechanic Ivan Polzunov and then with his hand: «Ivan Polzunov accepted and signed the patent». (It is good that he managed to get a patent). On p. 380 it is indicated that from Polzunov it was taken: 1 ruble for parchment leaf, 15 kopeck for printing to Senat, 2 rubles 25 kopecks for the seal, total 3 rubles 40 kopecks, whereas from the Obersteiger and Schichtmeister Kozma Frolov, although they took 1 rubles 87 kopecks, but they did not bring the military rank. And only with the next «change of ranks», in August 1774, the hittenfervalters D. Golovin and K. Frolov were approved in the rank of lieutenants, or in 12th class (see GAAK, p. 1, op. 1, 636, s. 213), but not captains, although the position of the hittenfervalter corresponds to 10th class.

It is necessary to perceive the matter in such a way that I. I. Polzunov enjoyed the well-deserved reputation of a highly educated specialist. Approved in 1761, privileges for mining specialists «as compared to the rank» became real only in 1779, and it is indicated that in the past 18 years the benefits should be summed up; alas, I. I. Polzunov did not have time to try a new uniform, let alone get the benefits...

There are other large and small inaccuracies in past books about Polzunov, misunderstandings with a misunderstood historical text, and new sources of knowledge have been discovered, which makes it possible to expand and refine information about the life and work of the great Russian inventor.

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