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WWII Cossack Newspapers and Periodicals at CRL

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Masthead of *Kazak* newspaper, June 28, 1944. From CRL collections.

Caught between two tyrannical 20th-century powers, Russian Cossacks of various groups found themselves on opposite sides of World War II. CRL's Slavic and East European Microform Project recently coordinated the microfilming of a [small collection of Cossack newspapers](#) published during the 1940s. (A few single issues were also digitized and are now available in the [CRL catalog](#).) They provide valuable source material for the study of Cossack involvement (especially on the Nazi side) in World War II. These titles include:

- *Kazachiĭ vestnik: informatsiia Kazach'ego natsional'nogo osvoboditel'nogo dvizheniia* [Cossack National Liberation Movement] (Aug. 1941–Apr. 1945; Jun. 1951–Feb. 1958)
- *Kazach'ia lava: tsentral'naia obshchekazach'ia gazeta* (Apr. 16, 1944–Feb. 22, 1945)
- *Kazachiĭ klich: ezhenedel'naia gazeta 1-i Kazach'ei divizii* (Dec. 1943–Oct. 1944) *Kosakenruf* (Apr. 1944) German issues of *Kazachiĭ klich*
- *Kazachiĭ klinok* (Mar. 1943–Feb. 1944)
- *Kubanets* (Jun.–Sep. 1943)
- *Na kazach'em postu: dvukhnedel'nyi zhurnal dlia kazakov* (Apr. 1943–Jan. 1945)
- *Parizhskii viestnik* (Jan. 30–Feb. 27, 1943)

These newspapers record the pulse of various Cossack groups during this volatile time period. They breathe Cossack nationalism mixed with varying amounts of German military victories, Nazi propaganda, and anti-Bolshevik sentiment. *Kazachiĭ vestnik*, for example, the organ of the Cossack National Liberation Movement (*Kazach'e natsional'noe osvoboditel'noe dvizhenie*) and probably the most blatantly nationalistic paper in the collection, chronicles many of the party's public activities, meetings, resolutions, and other efforts to call their Cossack brothers to join the Nazis against a common enemy, the Bolsheviks.

While early issues bleed propaganda, as the tide of war turns against Germany in 1944–45, the “progress of the war” is replaced on the paper's pages with an abundance of columns exhibiting a calmer Cossack sentiment. These include a bibliography of Cossack works, historical calendar, and a column dedicated to missing persons. Letters and testimonials of Bolshevik/Soviet atrocities committed against Cossacks also continue to appear regularly, but not as aggressively as in the early years of the war. After the war, *Kazachiĭ vestnik* resumed publication in Munich in 1951. The focus on Cossack nationalism represents a new stage in the Cossacks' fight for freedom and political identity. Published in the West, the paper has one column in English.