Preliminary Inventory to the Dimitri Shalikashvili Writings 1920-1960

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Dimitri Shalikashvili writings
Date (inclusive): 1920-1960
Collection Number: 80121
Creator: Shalikashvili, Dimitri
Collection Size: 3 manuscript boxes (1.2 linear feet)
Repository: Hoover Institution Archives
Stanford, California 94305-6010
Abstract: Diary and memoirs, relating to Georgian relations with Turkey, 1920-1921; Georgian refugee life in Turkey and Poland; the Polish Army in the interwar period, and its defeat in 1939; the Georgian Legion in the German Army during World War II; and Georgian prisoners in British prison camps at the end of the war. Includes translations
Language: Russian with English translation.

Access
Collection open for research.

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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Dimitri Shalikashvili writings, [Box number], Hoover Institution Archives.

Acquisition Information
Acquired by the Hoover Institution Archives in 1980.

Accruals
Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. To determine if this has occurred, find the collection in Stanford University's online catalog at http://searchworks.stanford.edu/. Materials have been added to the collection if the number of boxes listed in the online catalog is larger than the number of boxes listed in this finding aid.

Biographical Note
Dmitri Shalikashvili was born in 1896 into a princely Georgian family of imperial Russia and was educated in the elite Imperial Alexander Lyceum in St. Petersburg. He spent most of his last year of school on horseback in an Imperial Horse Guard regiment mobilized for war against the Central Powers. Following the Russian Revolution and Georgia's declaration of independence in May 1918, Shalikashvili, by then a lieutenant in the Georgian cavalry, fought in the war against Armenia, the Russian Whites, and the invading Bolsheviks. In 1920 he was appointed to the Georgian military mission in Ankara, Turkey. When the Moscow-directed communist government took power in Georgia in early 1921, Shalikashvili remained in Constantinople. He and about a hundred other Georgian officers stranded in Turkey were soon recruited by the government...
of newly independent Poland as "contract officers." Their Polish hosts saw them as allies and potential cadres in a new Georgian army in what they saw as an inevitable future conflict with Bolshevik Russia.

The Polish years in Shalikashvili's life (1921-1939) were, in his own words, "happy, interesting, productive years." Eventually sent to the Warsaw War College and promoted to major and squadron commander in the most elite of prewar Poland's cavalry units, the First Lancer Regiment of Marshal Pilsudski, Shalikashvili was a highly respected officer and prominent member of the Georgian émigré colony in Warsaw. He became fluent in Polish and met his future wife in Warsaw; after they married, all their children were born there.

At the start of World War II, which began in September 1939 with a coordinated Nazi-Soviet invasion of Poland, Major Shalikashvili and his lancer regiment fought until the final days of that September against overwhelming odds. Beginning with an abortive raid toward East Prussia, followed by a long retreat south through central Poland, the survivors, without ammunition or food, found themselves trapped by superior German and Soviet units. The only sensible option was capitulation. The regimental commander gave his officers a choice of surrendering to either the Germans or to the Soviets; Shalikashvili chose the Germans.

The next several years were the most difficult and controversial in Shalikashvili's life. After brief imprisonment in a German camp, his wife's German relatives won his release. He then moved back to Warsaw and rejoined the Georgian colony there. The Warsaw Georgians were divided: most were in complete solidarity with their Polish friends; others, especially after Hitler's attack on Soviet Russia, saw in the conflict a glimmer of hope of restoring Georgian independence. In early 1943, Shalikashvili volunteered to join the Georgian Legion, one of some two dozen "foreign legions" organized to help the German war effort. Shalikashvili and the other Georgians, mostly former Soviet POWs, were, however, disappointed when they realized that the Germans would not trust them to fight on the Soviet front but assigned them mostly to Western Europe. The end of the war found Shalikashvili in northern Italy, where he surrendered to the British in the final days of the war. His family was fortunate to survive the horrors of Nazi "total war" during the Warsaw Uprising of 1944 and to escape the advancing Red Army. Unlike most of the surrendering soldiers of the "eastern formations," Shalikashvili was not handed over by the British to the Soviets, who routinely murdered the officers and sent the rest into the GULAG. Released from a POW camp in 1946, Shalikashvili lived for several years with his family in Germany and later moved to the United States, where he wrote his memoirs, and died in 1978.

Shalikashvili's two Warsaw-born sons followed their father's example by choosing military careers. The older, Colonel Othar Joseph Shalikashvili (born 1933), commanded the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment in the Vietnam War, and later the Tenth Special Forces Group. The younger, a four-star general, John Malchase Shalikashvili (1936-2011), "General Shali," was the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 1993 until 1997. In May 1995, John and Joseph brought their father's remains to the family's ancestral village of Gurjaani for reburial.

Scope and Content Note
Dmitri Shalikashvili's multivolume, unpublished reminiscences cover almost an entire half-century, from before World War I until the 1950s. The memoirs are written in legible Russian longhand, with key portions available also in excellent English translation by Dmitri's wife Maria.

Access Points
Russkaia osvoboditel'naia armiia
Georgians--Poland
Georgians--Turkey
Prisoners of war
Refugees
World War, 1939-1945
World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--Eastern
World War, 1939-1945--Collaborationists
World War, 1939-1945--Prisoners and prisons
Georgia (Republic)--History--Revolution, 1917-1921
Georgia (Republic)
Poland
Soviet Union
Soviet Union--History--Revolution, 1917-1921
Turkey
WRITINGS 1920-1960

Box 1

Bagrationy (The Bagrations), 1957. Typescript of an article, La Nation Georgienne, No. 20, December 1957.
The Beginning of World War One, n.d.
   Physical Description: Typescript (photocopy).

The Bright Days of Our Independence, n.d.
   Physical Description: Typescript (photocopy).

Constantinople, n.d.
   Physical Description: Typescript (photocopy).

   Physical Description: Typescript.

Gruziia 26-go Maia (Georgia on the 26th of May), 1959. Typescript of an article, Kartuli Azri, No. 32, May 1959.
Gruzino-Russkie Vzaimootnosheniiia (Georgian-Russian Relations), 1954. Typescript of an article, Osvobozhdenie, No. 5, March 1, 1954.
Istoriia (History), 1959. Typescript of an article, La Nation Georgienne, No. 36, September/October 1959.
Iz Proshlago (From the Past), 1958. Typescript of an article, Kartuli Azri, No. 26, May 1958.
   Physical Description: Handwritten (carbon copy).

Konstantinopol' (Constantinople), n.d.
   Physical Description: Typescript (carbon copy).

Molodee Pokolenie (The Young Generation), 1957. Typescript of an article, Kartuli Azri, No. 15, April 1957.
Pamiati Generala Chkheidze (In Memory of General Chkheidze), 1960. Typescript of an article, Kartuli Azri, No. 41, December 1960
Pol'sha (Poland), n.d.
   Physical Description: Typescript (photocopy).

Box 2

Pol'sha (Poland), n.d.
   Physical Description: Handwritten (photocopy). Pages 1-75.

The Regiment of the Horse Guards, 1956.

Physical Description: Typescript (photocopy).

The Strategic Importance of the Caucasus, reprint, The Voice of Free Georgia, No. 3, September 1953.

Tam Nashe Mesto (There Is Our Place), 1960. Typescript of an article, Kartuli Azri, October 1960.

Voprosy Interesuiushchie Nas Vsekh (Questions Which Interest All of Us), 1954. Typescript of an article, Osvoobozhdenie, No. 13 (35), July 15, 1954.

Vospominaniiia - Chast' Pervaia (Reminiscences - Part 1), 1957.

Physical Description: Holograph and typescript.

Vospominaniiia - Chast' Vtoraia (Reminiscences - Part 2), 1959.

Physical Description: Handwritten (photocopy).

Box 3


Warsaw - Poland, September 1939 to January 1943, n.d.

Physical Description: Typescript (photocopy).

World War Two - Georgian Legion, n.d.

Physical Description: Typescript (photocopy).

World War Two - Polish Campaign of September 1939, n.d.

Physical Description: Typescript (photocopy).

The Years I Spent in Germany After World War II, n.d.

Physical Description: Typescript (photocopy).