

AHEF: milestones of military and peace years

During war years Kazakhstan became home front and center for the reception and location of evacuated enterprises. 220 factories, plants, production facilities and workshops arrived and were put into operation. Production of weapons and ammunition for the front was organized in difficult war-time conditions.

In iron years of trials our city took more than 30 industrial enterprises, which were evacuated from Russia. About 40 thousand square meters of production space were vacated for their location. These enterprises were put into operation for a short time and new fields of industry were developed in Alma-Ata.

On October 25, 1941 the factory which named Alma-Ata machine engineering plant since February 1942 and was in direct submission of GUMASH of the People's Commissariat of heavy engineering of the USSR, was formed on the base of 3 evacuated production facilities of Voroshilovgrad-Lugan engine-plant and building auto-repair plant in Alma-Ata.

There were no appropriate territories and the plant was forcedly put in 3 production facilities, located on the distance of 6-8 km from each other. The main number of equipment was received from the mid of December 1941 to January 1942 and was installed during the first quarter.

1942 was a period of reconstruction and commissioning of the plant, which began to implement the first defense order- manufacture of bombs, landmines and shells.

The specialists arrived with their families. In these turbulent war years, inhabitants of Almaty sheltered many evacuated families, sharing shelter and food with them.

The war workers who worked 12-18 hours a day in the name of victory over fascism were responsible for the huge seriousness of commitment and physical labor. The plant tried to meet deadlines for implementation of defense orders despite organizational and production difficulties. The demand was strict in a soldier like manner.

One of the heroes-workers of the plant in those years Khachatryan S.Kh. lived in Almaty; he worked on at the plant for 57 years. I had to meet and talk with this amazingly simple man, who became a living history of AHEF. He started from a simple worker in the iron years of war; he became deputy director of the plant, received many national awards, a laureate of USSR State Prize. Materials of S.Kh.Khachatryan are exhibited and saved in the funds of history museums of Almaty.

In August, 1943 Alma-Aty machine-engineering plant was renamed as Alma-Ata heavy engineering factory (AHEF) of the Main Department of heavy engineering of the USSR.

In late 1943 the factory received an order for production of the civilian goods for reconstruction of war-damaged enterprises without stopping to produce defense items for the front.

After war AHEF changed over the production of civilian equipment and specialized in production of rolling equipment.

In 1950 the factory put into production drawing machines for the needs of hardware and cable factories. In 1960-70s the base for creation of the first broadband mills was created. The factory took a leading place in production of mills for rough drawing of all types of wire in the USSR.

In 2000 "AHEF" JCS was awarded by the Government of RK for production release for oil-gas and mining industries.

The enterprise received a state license for design and production of equipment for oil-gas and electric power industry.

The equipment with the trademark “AHEF” works in all countries of the CIS and 30 countries of far abroad. The factory was awarded prizes and diplomas for achievements in the field of quality and marketing.

“AHEF” JCS is the only flagship of the heavy industry of the republic, existing for over 70years on the market, its products are well-known in many countries of the world.