

Appendix-A

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Chapter 12, “The Danger of Wolves to Humans” (pp 136-169)

(Translated from Russian by Valentina and Leonid Baskin, and Patrick Valkenburg. Edited by Patrick Valkenburg and Mark McNay)

Cases of severe unprovoked aggression by wolves toward humans are numerous, so we touch upon a very dramatic subject. Society needs more complete information on the problem to evaluate the true danger of predatory wolves and take precautions. There are tendencies, even among scientists, to believe that aggression by wolves toward humans is quite rare (138). To overcome this, it is necessary to describe some horrible, heart-stopping details of this aggression in Russia, just for the sake of further safety. This is the only way to persuade people how threatening wolves (i.e. anthropophagy) can be. The greatest danger is posed by rabid wolves in settlements and villages. Each rise in the wolf population results in increasing aggression, mostly by rabid animals.

According to N.V. Turkin, in 1870 an explosion of wolves led to numerous cases of humans being bitten by rabid wolves, though only a few of these cases became the subjects of newspaper articles (210: 77). To prove his statement, the above-mentioned author referred to 38 newspaper articles on rabid wolves in various regions of Russia.

Today, even hunters are not well versed in the statistics of wolf rabies. Only the most notorious cases have become known. Thus, in the book *“In a native land”*, 1952, issue 2, P.V. Plesskiy mentioned that in 1924 in the town of Kirov (then Viatka) two rabid wolves bit about 20 people during one night. Ten of these people died. In documents from the Kirov Game Management Department I found information that in spring 1954 a rabid wolf in Urzhumskiy district bit 3 people and then was killed.

The question is whether only rabid wolves display unprovoked aggression toward humans. For a long time there have been divergent views on the matter, especially between

common people and scientists. In a booklet by V.N. Kaverznev in 1933 (75) a special chapter was devoted to wolf-human interactions. The author, by means of statistics on humans killed by wild animals, denied the idea that wolves eat people, and this is now widely accepted by the public. Earlier, well-known hunter-managers and scientists V.N. Generosov and D.K. Soloviev used the same statistical data to stress the idea that wolves can be dangerous to humans. Kaverznev referred to their opinion ironically: “Earlier this winter there were news articles published about aggression by wolves toward humans, and the deaths of the latter. Because the wolves’ victims were mostly, if not exclusively, policemen and guardians, one might conclude that the wolves strongly preferred the flesh of policemen. Reports of this kind were never proved.”

Rumors, hearsay, and unchecked magazine and newspaper stories, (as author Kaverznev remarked), formed the basis of pre-revolutionary statistics, which were kept by local policemen and minor officials. So, (according to Kaverznev) the number of humans killed by wolves may have been inflated. More important, probably, was the next statement by Kaverznev: “Old and experienced game managers like S.A. Buturlin and S.V. Kercelly shared a negative attitude to figures outlining the quantity of humans killed by wolves”. In his book “*Notes of a hunter in East Siberia*” published in 1867, Cherkasov wrote that, “I never heard of wolf aggression towards humans in Siberia”. B.A. Kuznetsov, who visited in 1928 the Trans-Baikal region also noted: “All villagers whom I have asked stated that wolves never attacked humans”. In the book “*Beasts of the Caucasus*” by N.Y. Dinnik, one reads: “I do not know of cases where a non-rabid wolf attacked a human.” Reference was also made to the well known anthropologist and polar explorer Viljalmur Stefanson (Canada) who, according to Kaverznev, made investigations into the issue of humans killed by wolves in the USSR as well as abroad, and found no proven cases. As a result, Kaverznev came to the conclusion that “It is necessary not only to doubt but to deny the statistics, given by V.N. Generosov” [75:28-29].

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Later, by same reasoning, P.A. Manteifel regarded as tales and fantasies all rumors about wolves attacking humans. As thorough a researcher of wild animals as he was, he could not accept the very idea of aggression of a normal (non-rabid) wolf towards a human. It was his principle to trust to personally proven facts only. Like many other scientists, Manteifel was sure that through long experience with humans, the wolf has developed an instinctual fear of humans that forbids it to even approach a human.

Manteifel's idea was so firmly implanted in his numerous apprentices that it would probably still be popular today if it had not been for the events of World War II. These events caused most people to change their general attitude of good will towards the wolf. As a consequence of wolf-human interactions during wartime, a special commission was established, not very widely known then, under the supervision of the technical-scientific council of the Hunting Department in the Russian Federation. Facts about man-eating wolves led to steps intended to increase defenses against wolves. P. A. Manteifel headed the commission, and its conclusions and recommendations were presented in a report in November 1947. The document was "closed" to the ordinary public, and it was not available even to people who dealt with the problem and described increasing numbers of cases of non-rabid wolves attacking people in various regions of the USSR. According to the conclusions of the report, sometimes, man-eating wolves proved to be wounded, or weak due diseases, but sometimes the animals were quite "normal". The document recorded some specific cases of wolf attacks on children and women: 1920, Voronezhskiy district, Roman forestry area, an attack on a woman; 1935, Kuibishevskaya Oblast, villages of Kochetovka and Kanemenki, attacks on two children; 1935, Minsk Oblast, near the settlements of Kozli and Zachtse, attacks on two children; 1936, Minsk Oblast, Lyubanskiy district, attack on a child; 1937, in the same district, more than 16 children were bitten by a wolf; in 1940, in Domanovichskiy district of Minsk Oblast, more than eight children and some women; 1945 in Georgia, in Akhalkalaskiy and Bogranovskiy districts, some children were attacked; 1945 in the settlement of Dagestan, some children attacked; 1946, Voronezh Oblast, Polenovskiy district, a child was attacked; at the railway station at Bologoye, two children were stolen by wolves from a house; 1946 in Kaluzhsk Oblast, Ludinovskiy district, 10 children were attacked; and in 1947 in Kirovskiy Oblast, 27 children were attacked. The document stated that most of the children were torn to pieces.

Unfortunately, problems with man-eating wolves attracted little attention at the time and did not become the subject of special study. Whoever got reliable information regarded the cases as exceptional and explained them mostly as the result of war and/or the abundance of dead bodies that were not properly buried. The idea prevailed that only exceptional animals (i.e. ill or old ones or wolves that had been tamed and then liberated at war time) dared to attack humans. A ban was imposed by authorities on the publication of cases of wolves attacking humans, so facts were kept secret and could not be checked thoroughly. A total prohibition on publications

on the issue resulted in a lack of analysis of the phenomenon of man-eating wolves. Thus P. A. Manteifel in his booklet *“The wolf and its destruction”* (1949) (coauthor S.A. Larin) mentioned only the case of a wolf attack on schoolchildren in Losinoostrovskoye forestry when a female wolf, after zoo life, was kept in an agricultural farm and then escaped. The new facts that were discovered during the investigation by the commission during the 1940s were not published and the cases of wolf attacks on people were largely forgotten. Most zoologists and game specialists were convinced that wolves did not pose a threat to humans. In 1958, M.S. Zaitsev in *Hunting and Hunting Economics* magazine (Volume 11:58) discussed whether wolves display aggressive behavior towards humans: “Cases of wolf attacks on humans are extremely rare and mainly in rabies-infected districts.”

In 1962 zoologist V. P. Teplov gave a paper on a role of statistics in wildlife research at the 11th assembly of Russian Federation hunters. One of his arguments in support of statistics was that S. Buturlin proved through statistics that wolves never attack humans. Even in 1977, M. Ivin, in his paper *“With wolves and without wolves”* stated that the only aggressive wolf is a rabid wolf (72:148). This was despite the fact that by the late 1970s, cases of wolf attacks were widely known. Ivin (1977) even cited statistics given by V.N. Shnitnikov in 1957 that in 1849-1851 in Russia 266 adults and 110 children were torn to pieces. In 1875 wolves killed 160 persons. M. Ivin apparently regarded these figures as suspicious because these reports came from distant, remote areas in Russia. Some local officials, according to Ivin, deliberately exaggerated the figures to emphasize the difficulty of local conditions. Besides, he was convinced that most of these aggressive animals were rabid (72:147-152). Despite the conclusions of Ivin and others, real-life events left no room to doubt that cases of man-eating wolves had occurred. The tendency to diminish the threat was supported by results of work on wolf-human interactions in America. D. Mech, D. Pimlott, and R. Peterson unanimously decided that in North America wolves never show aggression towards humans and do not pose a threat at all. They reported only one wolf attack on a human (Peterson, 1947), and according to Pimlott, the animal was probably rabid. Also, in the paper by Daniel Dubois entitled *“We are not afraid of the gray wolf”* and published in the “*Courier*” magazine in March 1988, the author regarded fear of wolves as a psychopathic mania. He stated: “...no, as soon as these mystic carnivores are mentioned, stories appeared on horrible, bloodsucking, cannibalistic animals, stories which were as popular in medieval evenings by the fire as in sensation-driven newspapers of nowadays,

supported either by the public or by officials. We now can understand wolf behavior, so no horror should exist anymore when we mention “wolf”. These opinions could easily disorient society, and make people tend to ignore the stories of man-eating wolves in the Russian past. Thus, I regard it as my duty to report the most typical cases of wolves’ aggression towards humans. These cases were collected in Kirovskiy Oblast, and kept in the files of procurators and the Ministry of Home Affairs. They are also in the conclusions of special commissions investigating cases of wolf-killed humans. All these data were preserved by a senior game manager, G.P. Kamenskiy, and were first partly published in 1965 in “*Hunting Lands*” magazine. Similar data from other parts of the country were also collected (148).

In Kirovskiy Oblast, wolf attacks on humans have been recorded since 1944. In the first cases, a procurator was told that there were plenty of wolves, and people, even adults, were threatened. At the end of September near the settlement of Buracovskii a wolf caught an 18-month old child and carried it towards the forest. Peasants saved the child. A few days later, in the collective farm “The Giant” in Mendeleevskiy locality, two wolves attacked a girl, who watched a horse in a meadow. The animals bit the girl and tore her clothes. After its first attempts, the wolf started chasing children systematically. On 6 November, on the road to the collective farm “New Village” in Alexandrovsk locality, in daylight, wolves tore an 8-year old girl (Perfilova) to pieces, and left behind only pieces of her clothes. On 12 November in a settlement Beretzovskiy at 11 a.m. nine wolves bit to death a young postwoman (Tamara Musinova, age 14), who carried letters to villages. On 19 November in a forest clearing of Ramenskiy locality Maria Polakova (age 16), who was returning to work with her sister, was bitten to death.

Wolf attacks resumed in the spring of 1945, and became more numerous, more daring, more brazen, and occurred in many localities of the Kirovskaya Oblast. In the village Golodayevshchina, Rudakovskiy district, on 29 April a wolf attacked a 17-year old girl, Maria Berdnikova, who worked in a field with her sister some 50 meters from stables. Thick forest and weeds hid the wolf until the last moment, when it caught one of the sitting girls by the throat. The wolf was not threatened by cries of a gathering crowd of people, and several times the wolf picked up the thin girl and hurled her to the ground. As horse-watcher, V. Pashkina approached, the wolf aggressively growled at her. As other people approached, the wolf carried its victim to the forest, having jumped over a wattle-fence as high as 1 m. The wolf carried the girl more than

200 m until it was forced to leave her. As people carried the girl toward the village, the wolf left the bushes and followed them to the very edge of the village, paying no attention to cries and threatening gestures. During that day, the wolf several times approached the village and the next day it managed to catch a lamb near a livestock farm. G.P. Kamenskiy, who was the official who investigated the incident, explained the daring behavior of the carnivore by the fact that by that time it was the end of World War II and there were neither hunters nor a rifle in the village.

The first recorded wolf attack on humans in the village of Golodaevshchina took place on 21 September 1944. A 13-year old girl, Valentina Starikova, and her younger brother were uprooting turnips in a vegetable garden (kitchen-garden). She noticed a wolf that was trying to catch a calf in a herd on the opposite riverbank. Curiosity caused some children to stay near the bank and observe the scene while another wolf stole up from behind. A boy jumped into river, but a girl was carried off by wolves, and in a few hours only a part of her leg was found in the forest.

On the 1st of May 1945 in a village Mamaevshchina of Vasilkovskiy locality in the same district, a wolf attacked a 7-year old boy, Volodya Gorev. The animal approached some kitchen gardens that adjoined the forest and, having jumped over a high fence, approached a group of children in a street. In a jump, the wolf knocked the boy to the ground and clenched its teeth on his throat. A raised coat collar and a thick scarf saved the boy's life. In spite of approaching people, the wolf carried the boy towards the forest and released him only after a rifle shot. The boy was not badly wounded, with only some claw marks behind an ear, and some bruises and black spots on a shoulder. In nervous shock but fully conscious, the threatened boy ran to the people as soon as the wolf released its hold.

In Nemskiy district near the village Shiriaevo a 5-year old girl, Rimma Molchanova, was killed by a wolf. Along with other children, she was washing rubber boots in a rivulet near her village. When the other children went away and only Rimma and her little friend remained there, a wolf grabbed her. The friend cried out, people gathered, and by following a blood trail, they found a dead body with a throat bite and leg flesh partly eaten. The wolf had carried the child about 500 meters away from the rivulet.

From 1946 to 1950, man-eating wolves were an extremely severe threat in some districts of Kirovskaya Oblast, namely Darovskiy, Lebiazhskiy, Sovetskiy, Nolinskiy, Khalturinskiy and Orchevskiy districts. In Darovskiy district in July-August 1948, wolves took 9 children aged 7-

12 years. In July and August 1950, a boy and 3 girls aged 3-6 became victims of wolves in Lebiazhskiy district.

E. Isupova, a professor of the Kirov Pedagogical Institute recalled that when she was 15, on 17 November 1948, in Nolinskiy district, wolves bit her sister, Svetlana Tueva (age 8) to death. In midday, Svetlana returned from school with two other girls. A man joined them by the road just before they noticed 5 wolves in a nearby meadow. The man ran away and climbed up a tree. The wolves carried Svetlana more than 1 km to the forest. Svetlana's coat was the only thing left of the girl. The other girls survived and ran back to the school.

Z. Kononova, a former teacher in Khalturinskiy district wrote of man-eating wolves in her letters. These wolves appeared in the settlement of Rusanovo in 1947, and during August-September they killed a small girl, and a boy of 13 (Veniamin Fokin). A small girl was also torn from the hands of elder girls when the group went towards a threshing floor. A wolf stole up from the hay field, and caught the youngest child.

Near the village of Cherniadiievo, Anna Mikheeva and her mother were treating linen in a field, when 2 wolves appeared from the forest. One attacked the mother, and the other jumped at the daughter. The woman defended herself with a sheaf. The wolf left her and approached the girl who ran, fell, and was caught by the wolf. As Z. Kononova wrote, "I noticed some people running to the forest with pitchforks and sticks, then some bloody stains in the linen field, then a blood trail to some thick juniper bushes, where a torn kerchief hung. In a small clearing behind the thick junipers was Anna, her throat wounded, and some flesh from her stomach eaten. A special brigade of hunters arrived to exterminate the man-eating wolves in the Rusanovskiy district, and after that, the wolves never came back.

In 1946, hunters killed 560 wolves in Kirovskaya Oblast; it was a rare, high, harvest, at least in this century. During the next 3 years, with the help of skilled hunters from Moscow, an additional 1,520 wolves were killed. It was difficult work. The deprivations of the post-war years made it especially hard to find transportation to rural settlements, and to gather teams of experienced hunters. Along with local hunters and volunteers, they spent many nights in the taiga, tracking wolves. The best records of these hunts were made by Kirovsk hunters N. Smertin, M. Kinchev, V. Khlupin, S. Krinitin, the brothers Nagaev, and Moscow hunters F. Vasiliev, V. Shcherbakov, I. Cherkasov, F. Izotov, V. Zuev, I. Groznov. Due to their efforts, by

1951, most districts of Kirovskaya Oblast became free of man-eating wolves. Only Orichvskiy district remained in danger.

In that district, in the village of Tarasovka, on 29 April 1951, a wolf attacked and killed a girl of 10 who washed clothes in a small river. After that, in the same district, a group of wolves often chased children who picked mushrooms and berries in forests around settlements in Shalegovskiy, Smirnovskiy and Shabalinskiy localities. At the end of 1952, the police department of Kirovskaya Oblast noted: “recently in Orichvskiy district, wolves often attack children.” On 12 June 1952, wolves severely bit Zoe (age 11) and Lidia Vturina (age 15) from the village of Vturino. Both girls were hospitalized.

The same year, on 11 July, some children were picking mushrooms in a sparse forest about 1 km from a village of Karmanovo. At midday, a wolf attacked a 5-year old boy, Vitaliy Ishutin, and carried him away to the forest. Also in July, 8-year old Ludmila Perminova, from the village of Koshely, was bitten by a wolf. On 12 August, 6-year old Lidia Tupitsina, was carried away by a wolf from a group of children who were picking berries in the forest. On 17 August at 9 a.m., wolves attacked a young herder, Alexander Vediakin, 13. Wolves carried him about 1 km from the village of Grebenshchiki, when the wounded boy was saved by land workers.

Local hunters believed that it was an old female wolf that had become a man-eater. On 16 August 1952, a big female followed by 3 pups attacked a 12-year old boy who was with a group of adults picking berries. The attack was noticed and the boy was saved. In spring 1953, in Orichvskiy district, a wolf tried to catch a girl who, with her grandmother, walked along a forest track. At the end of May, near the village of Vturino, a large, old, nearly toothless female wolf was killed in a den. After that, attacks on humans stopped in the district.

The last wolf attack on humans in Kirovskaya Oblast was recorded in the summer of 1953 in Belskiy district. In the village Sergeitsi, a wolf attacked a boy, who escaped. In 1971, hunters helped to find the boy’s address. It was Sasha Grachev, zoological technician at a cattle farm in Krasnoyarsk. The hero of the battle described the events: “It was at midday on 17 June 1953. First, I worked in a field, then played lapta (a kind of rural baseball) with Volodya Averin, 7. Some meters from our playground there were two tall poplars and I noticed a wolf behind the trees though I did not realize at first that it was a wolf.” (The beast sprang out from behind the tree, grabbed Volodya, and knocked him off his feet). “I yelled in terror and hit the wolf on the head with a wooden stick. The wolf then rose up on its hind legs and jumped at me. I broke into

a run, the wolf swept me to the ground and knocked me down each time I tried to rise. My summer shirts were ragged. My screams reached the ears of my mother and elder brother. When they appeared, the wolf clenched its teeth across my body and dragged me. I tried to hold on to grass, while it dragged me further. Sometimes the wolf lifted me across its back and ran faster, and each time I rolled to the ground, and it pulled me. My mother and brother were running behind. The wolf dragged me about 300 m. There was a deep ravine in the way, so we rolled into it. I managed to grab the branch of a big fur tree that was cut in a ravine, and I tried to hold on so as the wolf could not tear me off. I was able to slip away as my relatives approached. I ran up the slope towards mother.”

A hunter, I. Dengin, who was commissioned to find this dangerous beast, wrote in his letter, “I did visit the boy in hospital. It was a horrible picture—deep wounds across his stomach, back, and chest. One could only guess how the 12-year old boy could survive, and even save the life of his younger friend.”

In 1983, a Kirov resident, A. Khlebnikov wrote that in the summer of 1944 near the village of Dubniaki in Mari Republic, wolves killed a woman and her granddaughter of 7 while they picked berries in the Mari-Solinskiy forest. The author of the letter, with other curious children, looked through a window of the morgue and remembered horrible dark spots (the bites on their dead bodies) and the torn throat of one of the victims.

In 1988, the editorial board of the magazine “*Hunting and Hunting Economics*” sent me information on aggressive wolves in Kaluzhskaya Oblast. Ex-chairman of the hunter’s society, S. Semiletkin, informed the magazine that in 1943-1947 there were 60 victims of wolf aggression, including 46 children. According to this information, the circumstances of wolf attacks on children were very similar to those described above in Kirovskaya Oblast. As additional proof, he presented a document. It was a letter from the chief of the local health department, Mr. Kreinin to the chairman of the district, Mr. Stepanenkov. The letter said, “I must inform you that victims of wolf bites have again been placed in a hospital. On July 14, 1946, a child from the village of Pechki, was attacked. Also, I received information on a child eaten by wolves at the settlement of Red Warrior. In Kolchinskiy, Maninskiy and Savinskiy localities, 3 children were hospitalized and about 14 died of bites. I ask for the urgent arrangement of wolf hunting.”

Some time ago, a Swedish translator of the first edition of Elis Polsson’s book introduced me to the opinion of Scandinavian people on whether wolves eat people. He sent me cuttings

from the newspaper "*Land*", # 30/31:1984, entitled, "*Sure, the wolf eats children*" and from #6, 1985 entitled, "*We know how to live with wolves.*" Thus, the Swedish mass media opened the discussion on the aggression of wolves toward humans. The main source of information was the paper by Ono Godenh'elm "*Recollections on wolf aggression at Lene Abo in 1880-1882*" (Helsinki, 1891, 38). In the paper "*Sure, the wolf eats children*" it was mentioned that wolves were extinguished from Sweden and Finland centuries ago. As a result, the understanding of wolf behavior also disappeared, and most people now believe that wolves have never attacked and killed humans.

However, church books provide a reliable source of information that proves otherwise. On 19 March 1821, Lars Backmark, of the parish Ovansh (near Evle), recorded that a tamed wolf started to kill and eat humans. Backmark was visited by master Ferner from the parish Orsund. Ferner told him that many people were wounded and killed by wolves in localities of Orsund, Esterfernebu, and other parishes near Dalarn. The news was shocking to both clergymen. They believed that the killer was an old male that was eventually killed by a hunter a month after its last attack on humans. People believed that the same wolf was taken as a cub from a den in 1817, and then was kept in Gusinge farm. After about 3 years, the animal escaped. A similar incident took place in 1880-1881 near villages around Abo and Tammerfors. An article by Ono Godenh'elm cited a newspaper report from October 1881. According to the report, in the village of Vellia (Nukurrko parish), the 8-year old son of a tailor, V. Hernberg, was caught by a wolf. The attack took place at 1 pm while the boy walked in the yard. The paper described the remnants that were found in the forest by the boy's mother and neighbors.

Ono Godenh'elm also provided a list of 23 victims of wolves in the same region. The list was based on reports given to a governor of Turku. Records for 1880 contained names of 10 children from 2.5 to 10 years of age; 9 of them were killed from 23 April to 22 October. The last attack was on a 9-year old girl from the village of Kierla (parish Haliko) who was saved, but suffered deep bites on her leg.

In 1881, 13 children younger than 10 years old were killed by wolves. Three were killed from the community of Virmo during May to November. On 14 May, in the parish Nousis, 6-year old Viahatalo, a son of Vilhelm Mattson, was caught near their house, carried away, and eaten by wolves. On 15 May, near Kariala chapel, wolves carried away the 4 ½-year old daughter of Gustav Helstrom, and at the same locality on 22 June, the 5-year old son (Gustav) of

Isaac Hartman from Vehmalais. The boy was picking berries together with his brother. Wolves also bit to death the 8-year old daughter (Mathilda) of Ludvig Savens from Pehtsalo. The girl and her 10-year old sister Ida were watching cattle some 1.5 km from Savens' land. Her body was found with one leg missing. In November 1881, near the chapel Vahto, a boy was carried off from a cattle farm, and his dead body was found about 2 km away. The lower part of body was eaten off.

After these data were published in the paper, "*We know how to live with wolves*", the newspaper "*Land*" came to the conclusion that "church books are not a reliable source of information." Though facts on wolf aggression towards children in the Abo region at the end of 18 century were apparently accepted by the newspaper as verified, the newspaper wondered if wolves were really the animals responsible.

Newsmen often refer to a book by Ekki Pulliainen, "*Wild animals and humans*" In the book, Pulliainen doubts the information of church books, suggests that the children disappeared for other reasons, and asks, "why then during next 100 years was nobody attacked by wolves?"

Now in Scandinavia, members of nature conservation societies, including "Our Carnivores", dominate in discussions, and insist on the conservation of the Swedish-Norwegian wolf population. As Pulliainen says, "Sweden needs an armistice with the poor wolves."

However, it might be useful to remember again the data from "*Land*" (1984, #39/31). The data include a list of 9 children that were victims of wolves in Dalarma-Estrikland (Sweden) in 1820-1821. In addition, there is reference to a book, "*Hikka Kuutaa*", by Pentti Miaensuria (1974). In his analysis of Finnish newspapers, he found that 24 incidents took place within some tens of kilometers of the locality of Abo, in Finland. The man-eating wolf involved was presumably an old male that attacked children in the company of two young wolves. Miaensuria also found information on wolf attacks on children far away from Abo, in Karelia, and concluded that these attacks were made by a different animal. Dr. Jouko Teperi mapped wolf attacks in detail in his book, "*Sudet suomen rintamaiden*" printed in 1977. In the book, besides the Miaensuria estimates, Teperi documented more than 40 other cases of humans that died from wolf aggression, and in all, found more than 60 recorded attacks in Finland during the 18th century. All of the victims, except two, were children. The list of victims starts with 8 victims around Kehsholm in 1831-32, 3 in Kemie in 1836, and more than 20 in Karelia in 1839-48. According to Jouko Teperi, the wolves never attacked face to face. Instead, they typically tried to

knock their victims down and carry them off without initially killing them. When chased immediately, the wolves often released the children alive, even if the victims were carried for a long distance. Thus, incidents in Finland were like to those in Kirovskaya Oblast.

Finnish officials were troubled by the newly discovered information on wolf attacks. In *"Memoirs"*, Ono Godenhjelm noted that soon after the first information on wolf predation on humans in Virmo parish, rewards for dead wolves were increased. In 1981, the subject of wolves was constantly discussed in Finnish newspapers. In October, the Senate in Helsinki formed a special committee to discuss ways of exterminating wolves in southwestern Finland. Some suggestions included hiring government agents, 6-8 hunters from Pskov Oblast, more hunters from Karelia, and 100 soldiers and 4 officers. They recommended a reward no less than 500 marks for a wolf shot at a confirmed time and place (half the sum would be paid for a pup). The committee even discussed the possibility using poisoned baits. In the Finnish district of Turku wolf hunting was very active, and hunters from Pskov, including the well-known masters Jakim Ivanov and Ivan Paklia, also took part in hunting. During the winter 12 wolves were killed, 7 by Pskov hunters and 5 by others. Among the dead wolves was one old female with bad teeth and an old male with wounded front and hind paws. They were regarded as potential child predators.

To provide still more information, we mention 10 cases of wolf-human aggression in Vladimirskaya Oblast in 1945-47. According to Sisoiev (205) all the attacks took place in Melenkovskiy district where there were two wolves (a female and a male) that were man-eaters. Only the male attacked humans, while the female stayed at a distance. They fed on the victims together. These wolves stayed away from other wolves, had no cubs, and their common prey were hares (up to 6 a night). They never took carrion, but fought with other wolves that approached carrion. If they noticed foxes near carrion, they killed the foxes and left them untouched. After the pair was killed in 1948, no other man-eating wolves have appeared in Vladimirskaya Oblast.

Thus, particular wolves became man-eaters, and people used to suggest that they were the injured or sick wolves. According to M Y Marvin, a man-eating wolf threatened and horrified residents of Suna station in Karelia in December 1947. It was a big, old male (length 138 cm), extremely thin, and there was nothing in its stomach except a tuft long hair from a woman (126:136). However, it would be wrong and even dangerous to regard all man-eating wolves as old and defective. All of the hunters that I questioned who destroyed litters of wolves in the areas

where people were killed, said that they shot normal, healthy wolves, including some that were very big (>60 kg). When these wolves and their litters were destroyed, cases of aggression towards humans stopped. We believe that in many wolf populations there are aggressive animals that dare to attack humans under certain conditions.

L. Krushinskiy studied the role of aggression in wolves and forms of aggressive displays toward other animals. He noted: “Cubs under 1 year generally were not aggressive towards strangers. Later, aggression increased, especially during the mating season. Adult wolves show more and more aggression. For example, a tender and happy wolf that was raised in a cage became dangerous for humans after 1½ years. Krushinskiy concluded: “European wolves raised among humans from pups display a wide variety of levels of aggression towards humans. All possibilities occurred, from very aggressive males (that required much work) to very nice females that readily took to any stranger. Generally, the wolf is an aggressive animal, and only its fear of human prevents it from attacking humans more often in nature (93:191-193).

When Krushinskiy wrote this conclusion, he did not yet have access to most of the information on man-eating wolves. There were few data available on the problem when his seminar on the behavior of wolves took place in 1979. Nevertheless, at that seminar, Krushinskiy reported that a third of all middle Russian forest wolves are potentially dangerous for humans because of their defensive reactions. These wolves feel fear towards men, less towards women, and are not threatened by children. In the newspaper, “Nedelia” (The Week) (# 25, 1984), hero-aviator, S. Shvets published a paper on his memories of wolves. He described a case where a wolf, raised from cub during the war years, became a beloved animal among aviators of the 285th regiment. Once, while walking with the men in a public garden, the wolf jumped on a girl and knocked her down with a paw. Aviators intervened to save the child.

So there seem to be particular animals among wolf populations, some of which become successful and experienced at attacking large prey like moose and wild boar, and accidentally, humans. Wolves then can be expected to progress in specialization, sometimes solo, sometimes as a team. Each man-eater has appeared under particular circumstances. One of the favorable conditions seems to be a sharp increase in wolf numbers, so that the number of daring, aggressive, wolves also increases proportionally. For example, in Kirovskaya Oblast until the end of World War II, wolves were common around all settlements and towns. More than 200 were recorded in the forests. Wolves often strolled the streets of Kirov, namely, Khlinovskaya,

Vodoprovodnaya, and Gorbacheva streets. The day beds of wolves were recorded in Zarechniy City Park. In 1945, wolves carried off a husky dog from the yard of the head of hunting management, I. Kolchanov.

During the war, active hunting of wolves stopped because adult hunters were sent to front, while older people worked on war enterprises. So at that time, wolves felt no fear of humans. Loss of fear was the trigger that unleashed aggressive behavior. The first successful attack on a person gave the animals confidence that humans were easy and safe prey. As some wolves deliberately chased and attacked humans, the experience spread among wolf population. All these factors favored the rapid rise of wolf-human aggression in Kirovskaya Oblast. If hunting managers had reacted immediately by killing problem animals, the tragedy might have been avoided. Part of problem might have been attributable to wildlife scientists who tried to convince many chief game managers that wolves were not dangerous. For example, in a letter from the Head of Game Management of the Russian Republic to a Kirovsk official in 1945, the headquarters wondered if cases of human deaths from wolf aggression were proven, and emphasized that similar cases could take place only during lean periods, i.e. at the end of winter.

Even during the 1960s, scientific reports explained wolf attacks on humans by lack of food for wolves in deep-snow winters (138). On the contrary, in Manteifel's report to the Scientific Technical Committee of the Head of Game Management of Russia, the author related multiple cases of children under 14 having been attacked, killed and eaten in many places in the country in July and August. This is when wolf pups need more and more food and are too young to get it themselves.

In the past, in 1847, V. Lazarevskiy described an episode of wolf predation: "At the end of June, about 20 km from Shuya, a female wolf ate a 4-year old boy in the settlement, and soon also tore to pieces an 8 year-old girl who was picking berries in a forest with two friends. In a few days, it knocked down and immediately killed a 6 year-old girl at her mother's knees. Next, the same female carried off a 9 year-old girl to nearby some bushes while many workers were in the fields all around. By autumn, the list of the beast's victims reached 10 (108:38).

All cases of wolf attacks on humans in Kirov (formerly Viatka) took place from April to December, the period when the new generation of wolf pups is being raised. Three cases reported after World War II during the winter remained unproven.

During the pupping period, wolves in Kirov mostly killed cattle or fed on carrion where dead cattle were placed. During World War II, the number of cattle diminished, as did the number of dogs and pets in villages. Wolves in the Kirov forests usually had no choice but to den in places where wild game was scarce. Because of the necessity of staying near their dens and their litters, during the war, adult wolves were in a critical position, and the most daring ones soon posed a danger to humans.

As soon as the wolf family was mobile, the possibility of finding food improved. They could move to places where moose gathered, to hare colonies, and to village garbage dumps to find at least a little food. Hunting in a pack also increased the chance of killing prey. All this diminished wolf aggression towards humans (210:159).

We need to explain why man-eating appeared mostly in Kirovskaya Oblast and only rarely in other localities. The phenomenon of sharp decreases in game and increasing wolf numbers around villages were the same throughout the country during the World War II years. Nevertheless, in tundra or steppe regions there were no records on wolves killing humans. Also, D. Mech studied wolves of the King Islands?? in North America and concluded that the forest wolf of North America is not dangerous to humans at all (94:6).

So we again have to pay attention to statistics used by some game managers who denied the very idea of man-eating wolves. According to Turkin (210), wolves were known to kill humans in only 3 of 63 Russian Oblasts (earlier called Gubernias). These were Viatskaya (later Kirovskaya), Tomskaya, and Samarskaya). In particular, in Viatskaya in 1896-1897, 205 people became victims of predation, while there were only 10 in Vologodskaya, 18 in Kostromskaya, 1 in Arkhangel'skaya and 9 in Yaroslavl'skaya.

Therefore, it is apparent that aggressive animals are much more common in some wolf populations than in others. Elevated aggression towards humans might be a consequence of poor fauna, poor foraging opportunities, or having the available food connected mostly with human activity. Where wolves occur in such places they are potentially dangerous for humans. If for some reason, wolf numbers increase under such circumstances, wolves can be particularly troublesome.

In a newspaper article ("Wolf invasion", *Izvestia* #28, 1986), correspondent A. Akhmedzianov reported information from the state of Bihar in East India, where wolves carry off children from the village streets and attack women and young people. Bihar was the

birthplace of the well-known story of Muggli. Recent news from Bihar on four men killed by wolves in the village of Anderra caused Akhmedzianov to investigate. He received an answer from Forest Headquarters that during the last 4 years more than 100 people were killed and about the same number were badly wounded. Bihar is one of the poorest states, is covered by thick jungle, and the Adivasi people who live there are mostly fishermen and woodcutters. There are also many slaves (economic slaves working off debts) among the human population and their shelters are primitive stick or clay huts. These people possess no weapons to protect themselves against wild predators. In lean years, invasions of wolves took place and the wolves lost their fear of humans. The wolves entered huts, stole babies from cradles, and carried off other children who served as babysitters.

There is also data on rabid wolves, and these facts are much less contested. In the 1970s, as wolf numbers increased, records of wolf aggression also increased. In 1976, news arrived from Penza about an epidemic of fox rabies that had soon spread to wolves. In 1975, three rabid wolves bit 5 humans. Other cases were reported in a letter circulated by the chief Game manager, "On additional steps against rabid carnivores" in November 1978. The letter reported the following cases: In Kurskaya Oblast, on 15 June 1978, a wolf bit 3 shepherds, a woman and 2 boys. Later, the same wolf tore a sheep to pieces, then attacked a hunter and was killed. In the village Sokolovo in Novosibirskaya Oblast on 25 January 1978, a rabid wolf attacked and bit a woman and 2 men. In Brianskaya Oblast on 21 August 1978, an adult female wolf bit 3 children, 2 women, and a man. Two of the children, 6 and 9 years old, and a woman, were seriously wounded and hospitalized in critical condition. Before the rabid female was killed, it also bit 2 dogs, a horse, and a calf. In May 1985, the Game and Fish Management authority in Briansk reported that a rabid wolf in Klinysovskiy locality severely bit 13 women and 11 men between 6:30 am and 1:00 pm in 9 settlements. Joint efforts by hunters and policemen resulted in the wolf being killed soon after it bit its last victim. In 1975-1976 attacks of rabid wolves on humans were also recorded in Ulianovskaya Oblast (15 cases), Kaluzhskaya Oblast (7 cases), Orenburgskaya Oblast (6 cases), and Orlovskaya Oblast (4 cases).

In Gorkovskaya Oblast, during the 10 years from 1929 to 1939, 40 people who were bitten by a rabid wolf were treated in hospitals. In the same area, after a rise in numbers of

wolves in 1978, some 24 attacks on humans were recorded. In the 1980s, there also were numerous stories in newspapers on battles between humans and rabid wolves.

In the magazine, *Rural Life*, in October 1984, a story was published about a woman who struggled with a rabid wolf in the village of Diatlovo in Kalininskaya Oblast. The woman managed to push the wolf to the ground, and then people gathered with shovels and pitchforks and killed it. In another magazine, "*Soviet Russia*", on 19 February 1984, there was another story of an attack by a wolf on V. Chumichev, a forest scientist from the Forest Laboratory of the Academy of Sciences. The wolf in that case was a rabid female, and the attack took place in Tellerman forestry area in Voronezhskaya Oblast. A paper, "*On a track of a predator*", by V. Polozov appeared in "*Trud*" (24 May, 1988). It related information about a rabid wolf in a village of Green Horn in Brianskaya Oblast. The wolf bit 7 people, including a girl of 5, and it also badly wounded a herdsman.

In "*Hunting and Hunting Economics*" (1981, #3), N. Naumkin described how a very big rabid wolf came down to a Soleniy farmstead in Voronezhskaya Oblast in February 1980. The animal bit 10 people, including a group of milkmaids who were going to work. All were hospitalized and their lives were saved, but the dairy farm with 400 milk cows was seriously neglected for a long time. Boldenkov (15) reported that in May 1974, in the game farm "Dinamo" in Khar'kovskaya Oblast, a wolf ran out of a burned forest towards Staritsa settlement, and on the way, it bit a forester's wife and dog. Then, in the middle of the settlement it attacked a horse and then proceeded to a group of children who were on a break from a kindergarten class, and were walking in the forest. The children thought it was a dog and petted it. Their teacher, who let out a cry of fear, was seriously bitten. The wolf bit 3 more people before it was killed. It was a 3-year old female. In the same paper, cases of a night attacks by wolves that took place in the summer of 1975 were mentioned in Rovenskaya Oblast, as was a wolf attack on a woman with a baby in December 1976 in the Rudniansky forestry area. Also mentioned was a wolf that jumped on a father with 2 sons in the village of Polianki in Zhitomirskaya Oblast. The wolf was killed with sticks and an axe. In July 1976, in 3 days a wolf bit 16 people in the Lubomil district of Volinskaya Oblast. All of these cases were attributed to rabid wolves.

In the magazine, "*Nedelya*" (#49, 1978), N. Samoilenko wrote a story about Anatoly Pustovit, a collective farm driver in Sumskaya Oblast who was returning home from the cinema

in the evening when a 56 kg wolf sprang some from some bushes and knocked him off his feet. The driver strangled the animal but received serious wounds on his hands, arms, cheeks, and jaw. He was hospitalized first in the district hospital, but was later moved to the main oblast hospital, where he died after 25 days. Many people were involved in the struggle to save his life, including doctors and nurses, pilots, and medical researchers, who attempted to make an experimental, high potency vaccine.

In Byelorussia from 1969 to 1978, more than 800 cases of animal rabies were recorded (81), one third among wild predators, mostly foxes (87%), wolves, raccoon dogs, and others. The peak of the epizootic occurred in 1976 when there were 127 cases reported in carnivores. At the time, the wolf population had also sharply increased. In 1978, the chief of Domestic Affairs of Vitebskaya Oblast, O. Baranovskiy, informed me that on 27 March 1978 10 people were bitten by a wolf and hospitalized in Lioznenskaya hospital. Further investigation determined that between 12:00 noon on 26 March and 7:00 am on 27 March in Sennenskiy, Lioznenskiy, and Orshanskiy districts, a wolf with signs of rabies bit 24 people. In the village of Sochnovo in Lioznenskiy district at 5:00 pm on 26 March there were 6 victims, at 5:30 pm in the village of Kalinovichi, 2 people, at 6:00 pm in the village of Solovievo, 2 people, at 7:00 pm in the village of Osipenki, 4 people, and at 8:30 pm in the village Sitno, another 4 people. Previously, at 12:30 pm in the village of Kuliani in Sennenskiy district, a wolf had bitten a 4-year old boy and at 1:00 pm in the village of Kolpino, an adult man. In Orshanskiy district, on 27 March in the villages of Krasnobel and Kholmi at 7:00 am, the dangerous predator bit 4 people and was at last killed by hunters. A list of the names, ages, and occupations of all victims, including 4 children and 6 women, was added to the information.

In the 1970s, the spread of rabies in wolves began from a persistent locus of rabies in Kazakhstan, where the first case was of a "rush" wolf near the Caspian Sea (218). The area was a winter gathering place for cattle herded from areas to the north. The source of the rabies was in wolves, foxes, and raccoon dogs that inhabited a band of rush vegetation along the northern and northwestern shore of the Caspian Sea from the Dengiz district of Gurievskaya Oblast to the lower reaches of the Kuma River. Scientists determined that the area of high prevalence of rabies in wolves and foxes extended from the Astrachan and Kharabalinskiy districts on the north and west shores of the Caspian Sea to the city of Stavropol in the west.

Wolf rabies was also recorded in Actyubinskaya Oblast, where wolves were extremely numerous. According to Garbuzov and Yanshin (35), between 1972 and 1978 there were at least 50 cases of wolf attacks on humans. The records included only people who sought medical help, so the true number of victims was probably much higher. Victims were mostly herders (48%), their children (20%), and drivers (8%). Attacks took place throughout the whole oblast from October to March. Most of the predators were mentally unbalanced, with a diminished instinct for self-preservation, so many of the wolves perished. Twenty wolves were killed by their victims or by bystanders.

It was noted that the people at highest risk were herdsmen and shepherds. Some of the cases were described by Y. Yanshin. A herdsman, Mendikozha, was sleeping when he was awakened by a noise in the cattle shed. He went to investigate, and in the dark, hardly noticed a wolf, which jumped on him. The heavy beast severely bit the herdsman, and when his wife came to help, she was also bitten. Another herdsman, Uzak Ualishev, ran to help, and he was also bitten. The people ran to hide in a hut but the animal followed them. They barely managed to escape to the hut and get the door shut. After a while, when the people had recovered somewhat from the shock, Ualishev took a rifle and shot the animal (233).

A rabid wolf is a very dangerous animal. After an asymptomatic period, they become fearless towards humans. They often attack and bite every animal they meet. In Aktubinskaya Oblast on 4 October 1979, in the Balataldic Valley, a pack of wolves ran into a flock of sheep belonging to a shepherd named Khamin. The predators tore 37 sheep to pieces, and bit dogs and other yard animals. Four wolves were killed, among them a rabid one. As of 21 October, 3 dogs, a horse, and a cow had contracted rabies (35). In 1957 in Byelorussia, a rabid wolf moved swiftly and bit 25 people (9 were deeply traumatized), around 50 domestic animals, and an unknown number of wild animals over a period of a day and a half (133). In 1979, a rabid female wandered around in the Pruzhanskiy district of Brestskaya Oblast and in the Orshanskiy district of Vitebskaya Oblast. It bit 26 people in an 11-hour period (44).

These wide-ranging biting sprees by wolves promote the rapid spread of rabies. If these outbreaks occur when the wolf population is also high, as in 1976, large areas can be involved. In 1976, the disease spread over the whole Volga Valley, the north Caucasus, the central black-soil region, and as far as some Oblasts in the Urals (Kurganskaya, Orenburgskaya, and Tcheliabinskaya), and Western Siberia (Novosibirskaya, Omskaya, and Altaiskiy Krai). In winter

and spring of 1976, other oblasts were also endangered (Kaluzhskaya, Brianskaya, Moskovskaya, Riazanskaya, Kurskaya, and Gor'kovskaya). In the Russian Republic, rabies among humans was documented primarily in the following oblasts: Brianskaya, Voronezhskaya, Lipetskaya, Saratovskaya, Volgogradskaya, Ul'anovskaya, Rostovskaya, Orenburgskaya, Chitinskaya, Tseliabinskaya, as well as in Krasnodarskiy and Stavropol'skiy kraisi. These were the same areas where restrictions and/or prohibitions on wolf hunting have occurred since the 1960s.

The recent information on wolf attacks on humans relates mostly to rabid animals. However, there is sometimes doubt about whether the wolves involved were always rabid. Such a case was described by V. Peskov in "Komsomol'skaya Pravda" (158). On 12 December 1978 in Mordovia, milkmaid, A. Grosheva, finished feeding calves and was on her way home from a farm in the settlement of Shein-Maidan. When she was about 500 m from the settlement houses, she felt something bump and then bite her leg. The woman decided that it was a village dog and clubbed the animal with her bag. Then she realized that it was a wolf. The animal knocked her off her feet and clenched its teeth on her throat. Fortunately, she was wearing a thick scarf wrapped around her neck. As she struggled to get the wolf's jaws from her neck, she happened to get her hand deep into animal's throat and grabbed its tongue. She got to her feet, and by walking backwards, was able to drag the wolf to her house and get the door open. She then began clubbing the wolf with anything at hand, and finally killed it with a heavy door padlock. (People in Scandinavia doubted the case and inquired of V. Peskov whether it truly occurred as described. Peskov answered that it was indeed true.) Neighbors of A. Grosheva ran to her screams and found the woman bleeding. She received medical help and vaccination. Many wolves (wolves were common around the village Shein-Maidan) came to the shed where the dead wolf was kept. They sniffed around, but disappeared before people could arm themselves. So the question arises, was the female wolf that bit A. Grosheva rabid?

Another case was reported by Y. Lisenko to officers of the Buelorussian Council on Game and Fish. On 10 November 1980 at 4 pm, a wolf attacked a flock of geese in the village of Piskuni in the Postavskiy district. Vera Khrapovitskaya, 23, ran to defend the geese. The wolf brought her down and bit her to death. Another woman, Seruk Maria 58, witnessed the event and rushed to help. She was also brought down and mauled to death. Then, a man named Gushchenok, who happened to be nearby took a pitchfork and charged the wolf but was also

knocked down and severely bitten. Finally, a group of people killed the wolf and took the bitten man to a hospital.

Aggressive wolves have been known for a long time. In a February issue of the magazine of the Russian Imperial Ministry of Interior in 1855, there is a note that in the village of Alikovi in Kazanskaya Gubernia (Oblast), a man named Fedorov heard the screams of pigs in his yard and ran out of his hut with his wife and son. They saw a wolf and Fedorov tried to kill it, but the wolf attacked him, bit his face, and bit off his left thumb. His wife was also bitten on the right cheek and the son was carried to a nearby ravine and mauled. Some of the neighbors who ran to help were also bitten before the wolf was killed. All of the people survived, and there was no mention of medical care. In another article in the same issue, a wolf reportedly attacked a dog in the yard of landowner Mukhanova on the night of 25 December in the village of Uspenskoye in Vladimirskaya Gubernia. One of the lady's horsemen jabbed the wolf with a stick and was bitten, as was a cook. The wolf then ran to a vitro (pottery?) plant owned by the same lady, where it bit two masters, a supervisor, and a worker. The wolf then returned to Uspenskoye and was killed by a group of people. In the same gubernia, in the settlement of Kirzhach on 7 January at 4 am, a wolf appeared and was able to bite 20 people before being killed.

Similar information was also reported from Siberia in the same magazine. Also in 1855, in the village of Yalanskiy in Eniseisk Gubernia on the night of 11 December, a wolf bit some peasants and was killed. In August 1854 was a listing of wolf victims in various gubernias: 5 men in Liflandskaya, 4 in Mogilevskaya, a man and a woman in St. Peterburgskaya, and a man in Tiflisskaya. Also killed was a woman in Arkhangel'skaya, 2 men in Kaluzhskaya, a woman in Kievskaya, 3 men in Kovel'skaya, 2 men in Mogilevskaya, 3 in Nizhegorodskaya, 2 in Novgorodskaya, one in Orlovskaya, 2 in Penzenskaya, 2 in Tavricheskaya, 3 in Shemakhinskaya.

Especially in these historical cases, it is difficult to determine if rabies was always involved. We can only guess now, as a diagnosis was proved in only 31.4% of the animals suspected of being rabid. Among wolves that attacked humans, 70-80% could be rabid (35).

Thus in all areas where wolf aggression towards humans has been recorded, game officials should take more seriously any new information on wolf aggression, analyze each case thoroughly, and destroy any suspicious animal. It is notable that most new information emphasizes the bravery of the people involved and gives little information on the behavior of the

wolf. For example, in 1966, in the newspaper “Sovietskiy Sport” (10 January) there was a story on an officer-sportsman who killed a wolf that attacked his wife. I found out afterwards that a second wolf appeared in the area and visited a skating rink daily, and no one killed it. People must be told that a wolf in a settlement is not to be treated like a domestic animal and it should not be welcomed or met unarmed.

Leonid and Valentina Baskin also added two other cases of aggression by wolves that have come to light recently. A recent one from November 2002 was reported by Russian Broadcasting, and the other was from a book published in 1999 that contained excerpts from an 18th century diary.

In a broadcast on 27 November 2002, TV-NTV and radio in Moscow reported that a rabid wolf bit 17 people in the village of Bogatirevka in the Far East Maritime region. A girl of 14 died, and many cattle were destroyed to prevent the spread of rabies.

In the book, “Travels of the homeless—a life story” by Natalia Baranskaya (Moscow, 1999, ISBN 5-900328-04-X, 558p), on pages 257-258, the author provides a citation from her father’s diary. Her father lived as a boy in the small town Belyi in Smolenskaya Gubernia.

“In 1885, our town was besieged by wolves, including rabid ones. The winter was severe, with plenty of snow. First, a huge rabid wolf ran into town at 5 am. At the time, an old priest, Vasily Ershov, was on his way to a cemetery church. The wolf jumped at him and bit his face. Then the beast ran along Boloto Street where the poorer inhabitants were starting their daily chores. The wolf bit around 15 people and got to the entrance of a shoemaker’s hut when the owner was going out for water. The wolf jumped at him, but the shoemaker pushed his hand deep into wolf’s throat, and before the wolf could clench its teeth again, the shoemaker killed it with the axe. The body of the animal was then burned, with a circle of curious residents watching. The government paid for all of the injured people to be sent to Paris—the only place that then provided the Pasteur vaccination, under the supervision of Pasteur himself. It was thanks to chief procurator, K. Pobedonostsev, who found the necessary funds for the Paris trip.

The township began to panic, especially after some wolves entered the center of town and systematically ate dogs in distant yards. Within 50 m of the garden of the school where I lived with my father, the headmaster, and a large family, there were two sheds that were used to store belongings of the local military team. The sheds were watched by a sentry. One day, a wolf

attacked the sentry, who climbed on the roof and shot his gun until soldiers came to the rescue. It was also rumored that wolves ate two prisoners with their convoy on the road to Smolensk.

When the snow piled up to the top of our fence, wolves visited our garden, and once entered the terrace where the windows of our (the children's) room were. The next day our windows were boarded up...

As there were a lot of local hunters in the area, and the place was rich in every sort of game, hunters were collected, and about a hundred soldiers were added, and together they made a chain around the town and killed any wolf and any loose dog they saw for 3 days and 3 nights. They also distributed poisoned baits in the surrounding forests, and battues (?) to wolves were made in surrounding villages, which had suffered even more than our township. After about 2 weeks of being besieged by wolves, the problem ceased, either because of the measures taken, or due to a change in the weather." (page 258)

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