

CHAPTER 1

Beginnings

The Globachev name begins to appear sometime around the mid-1700s. The earliest ancestor whose name we know was Kornilii Globachev. He lived in Vilnius and was a member of that area's gentry and of the Globach gentry, and was possibly descended from Crimean Tatars. He left Vilnius in 1770 and settled in Ukraine. He had a son, Fedor Kornilievich, born in 1750, who became a priest. Fedor's wife was Agrippina Iakovlevna.¹

Fedor had three sons. Dmitrii Fedorovich became a priest, and Ioan Fedorovich also became a priest and rose to the rank of archpriest in Odessa. The third son was Antonii Fedorovich, born in 1782, and he too became a priest. His wife was Maria Romanova. All these sons were priests not of the monastic order that required celibacy. They were all part of what was known as the "white clergy," and that required a priest to be married or widowed.

Antonii had a son, Ivan Antonovich. The latter's birth date is not known. His higher education was at the Ekaterinoslav Seminary, which he completed in 1827. He remained in Ekaterinoslav, a city on the Dnieper River. That same year he chose not to continue to pursue a religious career. He applied for a secular job. He initially held a job that is not recorded in his life's record, but after a few years he made his career in an administrative position in the Ekaterinoslav nobility assessment administration. This was an organization that maintained the qualifications for membership in the local nobility, processed applications, and kept records of the membership.

The Ekaterinoslav nobility were Russian. The area that is now known as Ukraine was annexed by the Russian Empire at the end of the

eighteenth century. It was generally called "Little Russia" (Malorossia), and over time Russians populated the area and Ukrainians were Russified. The Globachevs were Russian.

Ivan Antonovich was awarded the St. Vladimir Cross, fourth degree, for his good work. In 1869 he was accepted into the Ekaterinoslav hereditary nobility. His and his wife's names were entered into the registry of hereditary nobility. Their sons, Ivan, Konstantin, and Mikhail, were included in the registry.² It is Ivan Ivanovich's son who is the subject of this narrative. But first, some information on Ivan Ivanovich.

Ivan Ivanovich Globachev was born in the Ekaterinoslav Province of the Russian Empire in 1835. The major city of that province was Ekaterinoslav; later, during the Soviet era it was known as Dnepropetrovsk; its post-Soviet name is now Dnipro. Then as now it was a major industrial and transportation center on the Dnieper River. Ivan Ivanovich's career included several years in the army, from which he resigned with the rank of staff captain and entered into a career in police work as a local police superintendent of the Fourth Precinct of the Sokolskii District of the Grodno Province. He married Natalia Nikolaevna somewhere between 1860 and 1865. By 1860 he had become the chief of police of the province, a rank that was equivalent to that of lieutenant colonel, and in that position he reported directly to the provincial governor.³

As Ivan Ivanovich's family grew, the names of his sons were entered into the registry of hereditary nobility.⁴ This type of award did not bestow property or title to the recipient, but it did raise the family socially and helped to open doors of education and job positions to the family.

By 1870 he and Natalia had three sons: Vladimir was born in 1866, Nicholas in 1869, and Konstantin in April 1870. All three sons were born during the reign of Tsar Alexander II. In other parts of the world, Bismarck was unifying Germany, Emperor Napoleon III of France was taken prisoner by the Germans, Count Cavour and Giuseppe Garibaldi were unifying Italy, and Ulysses S. Grant was the president of the United States.

Since all three of Ivan Ivanovich's sons were of the hereditary nobility, they were eligible to attend the Polotz Cadet Corps, an academy that was open only to male members of the nobility. The function of such an institution was to prepare young males of noble birth for a military career.

The usual age at which a youngster could be admitted to the academy was from eight to about twelve years old. The curriculum was taught by military-ranked instructors, and the length of time that a youngster

attended the school was about eight years. The curriculum during a cadet's stay included mathematics (through trigonometry), history, philosophy, literature, science, French, and German.

Ivan Ivanovich died in 1876 at the age of forty-one as a result of an infection that had developed on his foot that may have been caused by his applying a home remedy to a sore on his foot.⁵ The funeral was, of course, in the Russian Orthodox Church, in a very typical Russian Orthodox church. The inside probably tended to be just a bit dark since most churches did not have stained glass or other kinds of windows. The walls and columns were covered with frescoes and murals depicting the life of Christ, scenes from the Old and New Testaments, and depictions of saints, prophets, and Russian saints such as Nicholas the Wonder Worker and Seraphim of Sarov. Icons could be seen on walls and on tables or lectern-like stands especially prepared to hold the icon. Around these were candleholders where the faithful could light a candle dedicated to the scene or saint depicted on the icon. The scent in the church was a mixture of incense, candle wax, and, since this day was a funeral, flowers.



Figure 1.1. Konstantin Globachev, age 10.

The service was certainly somber. Ivan Ivanovich was laid in his coffin in the traditional Russian Orthodox manner. There were no cosmetic improvements to his appearance, as was the Orthodox custom. His complexion was somewhat gray, a prayer ribbon was placed across his forehead, and a Russian Orthodox cross was in his hands. The service was in Church Slavonic. Prayers were chanted for his soul, for forgiveness of his sins, and, finally, the priest chanted, "Grant, O Lord, peace to the soul of thy servant Ivan."

Kostia, which was Konstantin's nickname, was six years old, Nicholas was seven, and Vladimir was ten years old. It is difficult to know what such youngsters really understood about the death of their father, but one of the things that stayed with Kostia for the rest of his life was his dislike for the scent of hyacinths, which he somehow associated with his father's funeral. Kostia was admitted to the Polotz Cadet Corp at about age ten, and he graduated from there in 1888. His older brothers were already at the school. It was while the three brothers were at school that their mother remarried a man whose name was Vasili Axenov, who had two or three sons by a previous marriage. One of these sons, Leonid, became a physician, specializing in ophthalmology.

Kostia was a good student. Upon completion of his years at the Polotz Cadet Corp, he continued on at the Pavlovsk Military Academy,



Figure 1.2. Konstantin as a junior lieutenant, circa 1890.

which he finished with a first-class rating. In 1890 he was assigned to the Life Guards Keksholm Regiment with the rank of junior lieutenant. Both of his brothers were already in that regiment. Three Globachevs in the regiment at the same time was something. The brothers became well known throughout the regiment. They were branded as Vladimir, “the happy Globachev,” Nicholas, “the chatty Globachev,” and Konstantin, “the handsome Globachev.” The regiment was stationed in Warsaw.⁶ Konstantin was well liked. He knew how to play the concertina and was quite a good artist. His painting ability would serve him well in later years.

The two older brothers continued in military careers. Vladimir became a colonel and a Politzmeister (police chief) of a district in Petrograd. He died in Finland after the Revolution. Nicholas was a battalion commander in the Russo-Japanese War. He was a regimental commander on the Prussian front during the early part of World War I, and he was promoted to the rank of major general and was commander of the Novogeorgievsk Fortress from 1915 to 1917. Following the Russian Revolution he immigrated to Berlin and lived there until the end of World War II. He and his stepbrother, Dr. Leonid Axenov, who also had immigrated to Berlin after the Revolution, were on good terms. Nicholas was arrested in Germany by the Soviet secret police, the NKVD, shortly after World War II and died in Siberia.

Konstantin’s military training continued with an assignment to attend the Nikolaevskii General Staff Academy in St. Petersburg. This was one of the premier upper division military educational institutes in Russia.⁷ Upon completion of his educational tour there, he returned to his regiment. One of Globachev’s first assignments after his return was as adjutant of the 3rd battalion in the regiment.

In 1899 he was temporarily assigned to St. Petersburg to be part of the greeting party for the Austrian emperor Franz Joseph, who was the honorary commander of the Keksholm Regiment.⁸ Globachev received a commendation medal. Back in the regiment he was appointed staff officer of the regimental court. This is where he learned the law, legal procedures and protocols, and the orderly processes that are involved in military legalities, investigations, and military court proceedings. This is where he also developed his understanding of the importance of the rule of law, a concept that would stay with him as his life and career moved forward.

It was during his regimental tour of duty in Warsaw that Konstantin met Sofia Nikolaevna Popova. Sofia Nikolaevna Popova was born in

Warsaw in 1875. She was the daughter of Nikolai Korneleevich Popov, who was a councilor of state for peasant affairs (*Destvitelnyi Statskii Sovetnik*). She, too, was a member of the Russian hereditary nobility and could trace her ancestry back to Semeon Korsakov (1787–1853), a well-known expert on homeopathic medicine and an early pioneer in building “smart machines” that used perforated cards as sources of information,⁹ and Semeon’s son, Michael Semeonovich Korsakov, governor-general of East Siberia from 1861 to 1871.¹⁰

Sofia’s parents may have died when she and her siblings were not yet adults. Sofia’s daughter, Lydia, stated that a guardian raised Sofia and her brothers and sisters. Sofia had three brothers and two sisters. The brothers were Michael, Nicholas, and Vladimir, and the sisters were Olga and Maria. They all received a very good education. Growing up in Warsaw and attending a girls’ educational institute that also had daughters of Polish gentry and nobility as students, Sofia became fluent in Polish and in German because of a nanny that was employed in the house, and French, of course, since any truly educated Russian of those times knew French as their second language. As she was of Russian parentage, naturally she was fluent, literate, and well read in Russian



Figure 1.3. Sofia, circa 1898.

literature. She was an excellent pianist and had a pleasant singing voice. Sofia was also strong-willed. Within the family circle and among friends, she was called Sonia, a very customary Russian diminutive for Sofia. It was probably during her earlier years, when she and her siblings were in the care of a guardian, that she inherited about sixty acres of property in the Warsaw area. It is not known whether, or how much, Sofia's siblings might have inherited.

Sofia was attractive—not beautiful, but striking. Her posture was such that she gave the appearance of being taller than she actually was, which was about 5'4". She had very expressive gray eyes. She carried herself very well, was sociable, had a good sense of humor, and was a good conversationalist in any of the languages in which she was fluent. Konstantin, too, was educated, cultured, and pleasant in appearance. He was well into his twenties, had good posture, was trim, about 5'10", had already developed the customary handlebar moustache, and generally had a calm disposition. Konstantin was attracted to Sofia, and she to him. While he took his position as an officer seriously, he did not take himself seriously. He did not promote his importance, and his modesty was an attractive quality.



Figure 1.4. The newlywed Globachevs, 1898.

Sofia and Konstantin were married in Warsaw on January 9, 1898. He was twenty-seven years old and she was twenty-two. He could not have married earlier, because there was a regulation in the army that an officer had to have a certain sum of money in savings before he could marry. Regardless of being of the hereditary nobility of Ekaterinoslav Province, he did not own any property and his financial status was modest.

Sofia and Konstantin soon started their family. They had three children. Sergei, the first child, was born around 1900, and died around 1902–3 from typhoid fever. The tragedy of Sergei's death was made even worse when one of Sofia's sisters told her that Sergei's death was God's punishment for some unspecified sin that Sofia must have committed. Sofia never spoke to that sister again. Many years later, when Sofia would mention Sergei in conversations, she would be sad and wistful. Lydia was born in October 1901, and Nicholas was born in 1903.

Sofia's brother Nicholas saw action in the Russo-Japanese War and later became a colonel and regimental commander of the Brest Infantry Regiment during World War I. Following the 1917 October Revolution, Nicholas and his family became separated and he wound up either in Latvia or Lithuania. The night before he was to be reunited with his wife and daughters Tamara and Alla, he died of a heart attack.

Sofia's brother Michael joined the army and served most of his career in the east, possibly near the Chinese border. He was married to a German woman by the name of Anna, and they had a son, Boris, and three daughters, Olga, Tatiana, and Vera. The third brother, Vladimir, became an artillery officer stationed in Riga during the war. He and his wife, who was known as "Aunt Musia," had three children, Olga, Nina, and Alexander. According to Konstantin's daughter, Vladimir died of a heart attack during the Revolution when he was about thirty-six years old. Sofia states in her memoirs that one of her brothers (she does not mention his name, but it must have been Michael) was captured and shot by the Bolsheviks during the Civil War.

Konstantin continued his life in the regiment and his married life in Warsaw. This was ideal for Sofia. She loved living in Warsaw, where she was born and grew up, and her memories of those early married years in Warsaw were ones of happiness and peace.

Konstantin was promoted to captain and was transferred in 1900 from his duties in the regimental court to being in charge of the regimental training command. This was his first experience in a leadership position, and he spent the next three years responsible for the orientation

of new military personnel, their basic training, professional development, and education. He was also responsible for keeping all regimental staff updated on policies, strategies, tactics, and any other such matters. However, it was not clear what the future held in store for him once his duties with the training command ended and he would be reassigned to another job in the regiment.

Globachev loved the regiment, but regimental life did not entirely fulfill his ambitions, nor did it quite suit his character. In addition to its military role, a life guard regiment had a number of other responsibilities, including providing security to visiting dignitaries, being a presence and participating in ceremonial events, and participating in parades. This was not something that Globachev thought brought out the best in him. Some of the social life of a regiment also was not in keeping with Globachev's personality. Gambling and drinking, as could be found in some regiments, was not something that interested Globachev. But the experience that he had while being attached to the regimental court, and his leadership while with the training command, gave him a sense of direction. In spite of some of the perceived shortcomings of being



Figure 1.5. Globachev as staff captain.

in the regiment, he continued to have fond memories of, and pride in, having been a member of the regiment. He had made friends in the regiment that he would keep for the rest of his life, and serving with his two brothers in the same regiment certainly added to his fond memories. Even after the Revolution and his subsequent life as an émigré, he always wore his regimental pin on his lapel.

In 1903 he applied to enter the Special Corps of Gendarmes. His application was accepted and he got a good recommendation. The review of his application was very favorable. It stated that he was of "high moral character, highly competent, and dedicated to duty. He had a good reputation among his superiors and comrades, and he has a theoretical knowledge of French and German and he speaks Polish."¹¹ There are a number of reasons why Globachev chose to enter the Corps of Gendarmes. A few have been given above, such as those regarding some of the regimental culture but, as he stated, he chose this move as a matter of conviction. A major responsibility of the Special Corps of Gendarmes was to investigate suspicious political activities and crimes against the existing laws of the empire. The work was more exciting than some of regimental life, it was broader in its operations geographically, and more profound in its impact on the empire. Promotions could happen faster too. He was accepted into the Corps of Gendarmes at his captain's rank.

The headquarters of the Special Corps of Gendarmes was in St. Petersburg. This is also where the training facilities were located. Each person entering the corps had to go through a three-month training program. The curriculum included criminal law, railway regulations, and investigative procedures. At the end of three months the officer trainees took a written final examination.¹²

Between May 1903 and September 1905, Globachev was assigned to various provincial gendarme administrative offices. This was undoubtedly part of his orientation and training. His first assignment was as adjutant in the provincial Gendarme Administration in Peterhof where he served from September 1903 until April 1904. He was then reassigned to the Gendarme Administration in Baku where he spent only about a month, after which he was assigned to the Gendarme Administration in Grodno Province, whose headquarters was in the city of Bialystok. This was a small security agency operation. His posting there was from May 1904 to September 1905. Globachev's official service record shows only that he was assigned to the Grodno Gendarme Administration.¹³ It is not known whether he was chief of the administration, or in some other

role. Globachev's daughter stated that her father never had a subordinate role once he was in a line position in the Corps of Gendarmes. Globachev's wife states in her memoirs that he was "in charge" of the Bialystok agency. Globachev's personal resume states that he was the head of the Bialystok Okhrana.¹⁴

Bialystok was the largest city in the northeastern part of Russian Poland. In the last years of the nineteenth century, the population of the city was about sixty-six thousand, and about 63 percent was Jewish. The city was a center of textile manufacturing. The mix of population included industrial factory workers, peasants, students, artisans, and many unemployed poor, as well as professional anarchists. This is the environment into which the Globachevs moved. He was responsible for security and order. Sofia came with their three-year-old daughter and one-year-old son. She writes, "it was with our arrival in Bialystok that my life became anxiety-ridden and tormented, since not a day went by that I could not be sure that my husband might not be killed by the revolutionaries."¹⁵ She recounts various killing incidents, such as when terrorists stalked an orderly and shot him in the street. Young and old civilians were killed. Raiding terrorist hideouts was a very dangerous enterprise. Globachev's wife describes how her husband, as head of the agency, participated in one such event. A terrorist bomb maker's hideout was made known and was raided. He was captured before he could detonate the bomb.¹⁶ The Globachevs had armed guards who escorted them whenever they left their home.¹⁷ Sofia Globacheva's anxiety was well founded.

The Globachevs were in Bialystok for one year only. In September 1905 Globachev was assigned to the Lodz District Gendarme Administration. His service record shows that he was appointed chief of that office.¹⁸

While Globachev was at these postings in various parts of Poland, Russia was involved in a number of crises. The Russo-Japanese War lasted from February 1904 to September 1905, and in January 1905, right in the middle of the war, St. Petersburg experienced Bloody Sunday, a peaceful demonstration by workers that turned into a massacre. Russia's Revolution of 1905 was felt in Poland, especially in Lodz.

Lodz was a major industrial city about eighty miles southwest of Warsaw. It was also a very polluted city. "Approaching the city, one could see from several kilometers away a huge cloud of thick, black smoke permeating the city."¹⁹ In 1905 the population of Lodz was almost 344,000. The security situation in Lodz was very similar to that in Bialystok. There were strikes, killings by anarchists and revolutionaries of



Figure 1.6. Globachev as lieutenant colonel.

various ideologies, and, in general, the never-ending task of the gendarme office of keeping track of suspicious people and behavior, and of arresting those who were identified as political criminals. The importance of this assignment led to Globachev's promotion to lieutenant colonel in April 1906 (the rank of major in the armed forces had been abolished in 1884, thus the promotion system was from captain to lieutenant colonel), and that same month he was awarded the St. Vladimir Cross, fourth degree, for meritorious service.

Life for Sofia was never without some anxiety for Konstantin's safety, but there were some moments that the family could get away from Lodz. Sofia and her young children were able to spend summers in Spala, and Sofia took the family's German nanny and a servant also. Spala was approximately thirty miles southeast of Lodz. Spala was the park where the Tsar's hunting lodge was located. The lodge, with its accompanying

cabins, was available to senior governmental staff. Globachev was in that category as head of the Lodz Gendarme Administration.

During Sofia's summer stays Konstantin was able to take some short time off to join Sofia and the children. There were many activities available at this resort. There was bowling, bicycle riding, horseback riding, walks in the woods, visits to the nearby village, and lapta. Lapta was a game with a ball that has sometimes been loosely compared to baseball. The children of the various dignitaries who were on vacation had many activities too, and the Globachev nanny and the nannies of other vacationers watched the children as the adults indulged in their activities.