

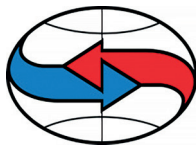
UNITED FOR VICTORY

CONTRIBUTION OF THE UNION REPUBLICS OF THE USSR
TO THE COMMON VICTORY IN THE WAR OF 1941-1945.



The work has been fulfilled by
the Autonomous Non-Commercial Organisation
«Institute of Diaspora and Integration» («Institute of CIS Countries»)
and supported by the grants from the
«Foundation for Supporting and Protecting
the Rights of Compatriots Living Abroad»



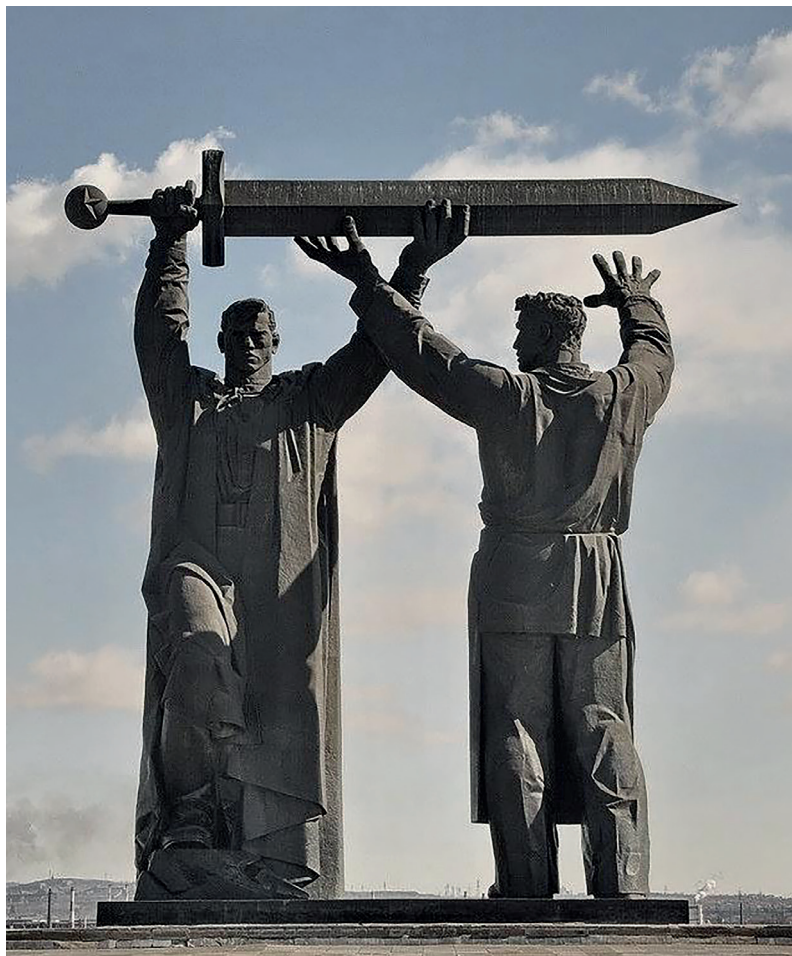


**Institute of Diaspora and Integration
(Institute of CIS Countries)**

The research «Contribution
of the Union Republics of the USSR
to the Common Victory in the War of 1941–1945»
has been carried out by the Autonomous
Non-Profit Organisation «Institute of Diaspora
and Integration» («Institute of CIS Countries»)
and supported by a grant from the Foundation
for Supporting and Protecting the Rights
of Compatriots Living Abroad

Website: <http://fondsngru.ru>

Moscow
2025



*Monument to the «Rear for the Front» in Magnitogorsk
Photo by: Igor Butyrsky*

UNITED FOR VICTORY

The victory of the Soviet Union in the Great Patriotic War and the war against militarist Japan predetermined the outcome of the main event of the 20th century — the Second World War. The Victory in this war decided the fate of the entire world.

Even now as we celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Victory, of the whole of humanity still largely lives in a world shaped by the results of the Great Victory.

Each of the 15 republics of the Soviet Union contributed to the Great Victory proportionally to its population and economic development. The war took the lives of more than 14 million people of the RSFSR, 7 million in Ukraine, 2.3 million in Byelorussia, 660 thousand in Kazakhstan, 550 thousand in Uzbekistan, 300 thousand each in Georgia and Azerbaijan, 180 thousand in Armenia, 170 thousand in Moldova, 100 thousand in Turkmenia, 120 thousand each in Kirghizia and Tajikistan. In short, some more, some less, but every nation living in the USSR at that time sacrificed its own children in the name of Victory.

Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic



With a population of 3.4 million people¹, the Azerbaijan SSR sent about 700 thousand citizens of to the front. In the early days of the war, more than 40 thousand people applied to military commissariats to be sent to the front, 187 thousand enrolled in the militia.

Just before the war, Baku had supplied 70% of oil and 90% of gasoline of the entire country, and Germany saw its seizure as a primary objective. Many in the West declared: «The one who owns Baku oil will win».

During the same period, oil deposits were discovered nearby the city of Kuibyshev (currently the city of Samara), where 5 thousand Baku oil workers and oil machinery were sent.

The Azerbaijan Republic became a strong rear arsenal. Industrial enterprises of the region mastered more than 350 new types of military products.

¹ Hereinafter, data are based on the reference book «All-Union Population Census of 1939: Main Results». Moscow: Nauka, 1992. 254 p.



A female operator at the Baku oil fields
Source: RIA Novosti Mediabank Internet resource

During the war, 10 divisions were formed on the territory of the Azerbaijan SSR, staffed mainly by residents of the republic. Every fifth resident of the republic fought on the frontlines of the Great Patriotic War.

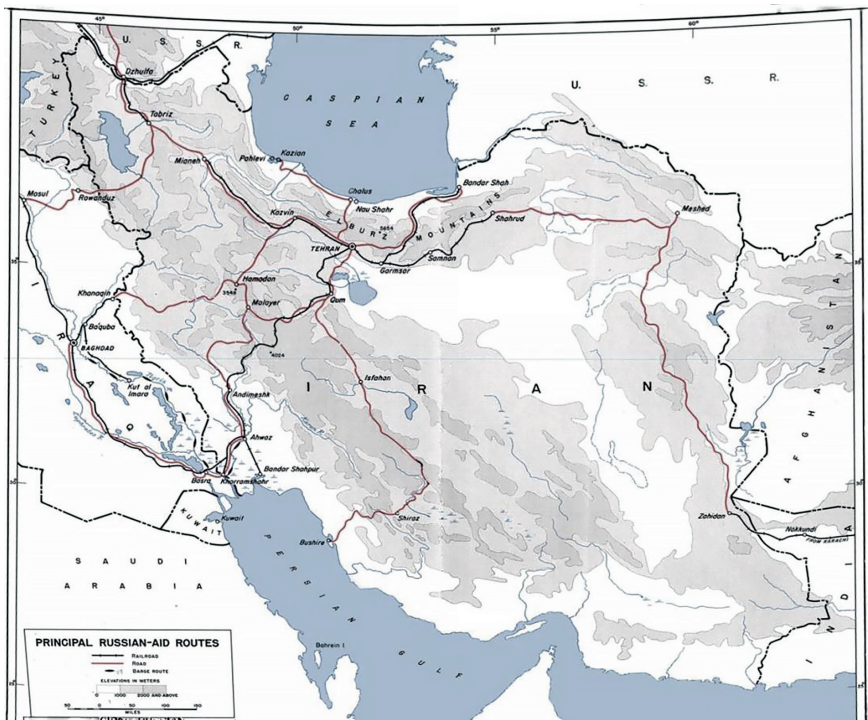
More than 120 natives of Soviet Azerbaijan were honoured with the title of Hero of the Soviet Union, over 170 thousand were awarded military orders and medals, 14 soldiers became full cavaliers of the Order of Glory.



Departure of volunteers to the front, Baku, 1941

Source: Internet resource «OurBaku»

The Trans-Iranian route became an important transport corridor, providing military supplies from the allies under the Lend-Lease program. Thanks to it, the USSR was supplied with the necessary weapons, equipment and food.



Trans-Iranian Route Map. Photo from open sources



*Hero of the Soviet Union Museib Abdulovich Allahverdiyev
(05.05.1909 — 19.05.1969)*

Source: «Immortal Regiment» website

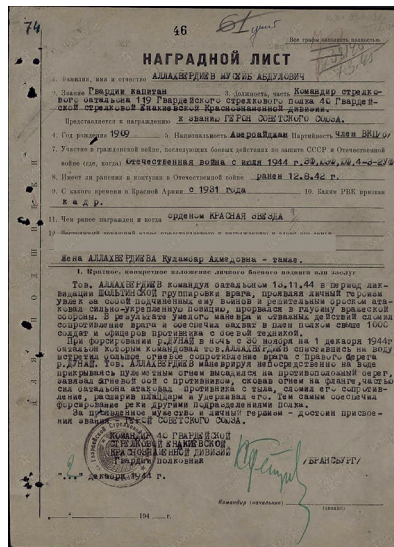
Nomination of the commander of the rifle battalion of the 119th Guards Rifle Regiment of the 40th Guards Rifle Yenakiyevo Red Banner Division, Captain of the Guards Museib Abdulovich Allahverdiyev, for the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. Brief summary of personal combat feat

«...During the crossing of the Danube River on the night of November 30 to December 1, 1944, the battalion commanded by Comrade Allahverdiyev, having launched on the wade, encountered heavy armed resistance from the enemy from the right bank of the Danube River.

Comrade Allahverdiyev, maneuvering directly in the water, under the cover of machine-gun fire, reached on the opposite bank, engaged the enemy in a firefight, pinning them down by fire on the flank, and with part of the battalion's forces attacked the enemy from the rear, breaking their resistance, expanding the bridgehead and holding it. Thus, he ensured the crossing of the river by other units of the regiment.

For his courage and personal heroism, the Guard Captain was awarded the title «HERO OF THE SOVIET UNION».

Signed — Commander of the 40th Guards Rifle
Yenakiyevo Red Banner Division Colonel of the Guards
L.Sh. Bransburg
12.02.1944



Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic



With a population of 1.3 million people, the Armenian SSR dispatched 320 thousand citizens to the frontlines. In the first days of the war, 60 thousand were mobilized. By 1941, several military educational institutions were created in the republic, including an infantry school, a special artillery school, and air force schools.

Partisan units were formed from among the mobilized in the occupied territory of the USSR and Eastern European countries. The «Pobeda» partisan unit operated in Poland.

By the beginning of 1942, workers of the Armenian SSR launched the production of 300 types of various weapons, ammunition, and equipment, including mortars, shells, grenades, mines, explosives, and clothing. Manufacturing of 10 types of ammunition, 6 types of communications equipment, 47 types of household and clothing goods, 20 types of chemical products, 6 types of artillery items, one type of special fire-resistant brick, glass, cement substitute, and airfield compressor stations was mastered.





Armored train «Soviet Armenia», built with funds of the working people of the Armenian SSR. 1942. Source: Federal State Budgetary Institution RIC «Red Star» of the Russian Ministry of Defense

The following items were built using funds of agricultural workers: tank units «Kolkhoznik Armenii», «Miner Zangezur», «Athlete of Armenii», «Komsomol Armenii», «Pioneer Armenii», «Soviet Armenii», the air squadrons «Akhtanak» (Victory), «Young Guard», «Soviet Artist», «Soviet Armenii», the armored train «Soviet Armenii», etc.

The republic accommodated evacuated citizens and enterprises. It developed its own mining industry (extraction of peat, coal, copper). Men who went to the front were replaced at the machine tools by women, whose share in the ranks of workers and employees exceeded 54% in 1942.

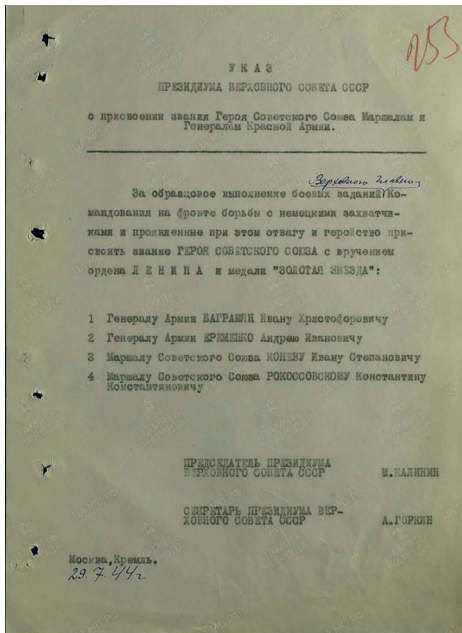
27 residents of the Armenian SSR became full cavaliers of the Order of Glory. 68 generals held command positions in various military units on all fronts. 4 Armenians became marshals of the USSR: I.Kh. Baghramyan, A.Kh. Babajanyan, S.A. Khudyakov, S.Kh. Aganov, one — Admiral I.S. Isakov.

107 people were awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. Marshal I.Kh. Baghramyan and military pilot N.G. Stepanyan were honoured with this title twice.





*«Everyone to the Defense of Moscow!», November 1941
Source: Main Archive Directorate of the City of Moscow*



Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR on granting the title of Hero of the Soviet Union to Marshals and Generals of the Red Army. Source: GIS «Memory of the People»

«For exemplary execution of combat missions of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief at the front of the battle against the Ger-

man invaders and the heroism displayed, grant the title "HERO OF THE SOVIET UNION" with the Order of Lenin and the medal "GOLD STAR"» to Army General Ivan Khristoforovich Bagramyan»

Signatories:

Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR M.I. Kalinin

Secretary of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR A.F. Gorkin

07.29.1944



*Hero of the Soviet Union Ivan Khristoforovich Bagramyan
(02.12.1897 — 21.09.1982). Source: GIS «Memory of the
People»*

Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic



With a population of 9.2 million people, 1.3 million people from the republic took part in frontline confrontation. On the territory of the Byelorussian SSR, 199 partisan brigades operated, totaling more than 370 thousand people participated.

The early months of the war on the territory of the republic were marked by active and persistent defensive actions, despite the significant superiority of the enemy. Not a single border outpost left its positions without an order or surrendered to the enemy.

The garrison of the Brest Fortress, which continued fighting under complete encirclement for a month, became a symbol of resistance.





Group of Belarusian partisans
Source: Gomel Regional Museum of Military Glory



*Burning of a Byelorussian village.
Source: «Belarus Segodnya» Publishing House*

During the occupation, 209 of the 270 cities and district centers of the Byelorussian SSR were destroyed, including 80–90% of the cities of Minsk, Gomel and Vitebsk. More than 12 thousand villages and hamlets were destroyed, of which about 300 were burned down along with their inhabitants and never restored («sisters of Khatyn»).

Death camps were created on the territory of Byelorussia. About 400 thousand residents were taken to Germany for forced labor. About half of them died or were unable to return to their homeland.

For the feats performed behind enemy lines, about 140 thousand Byelorussian partisans and underground fighters were awarded orders and medals, 73 people were awarded the title of full cavaliers of the Order of Glory. 91 people were honoured with the title of Hero of the Soviet Union, four of them twice: P.Ya. Golovachev, I.I. Gusakovsky, S.F. Shutov and I.I. Yakubovsky.



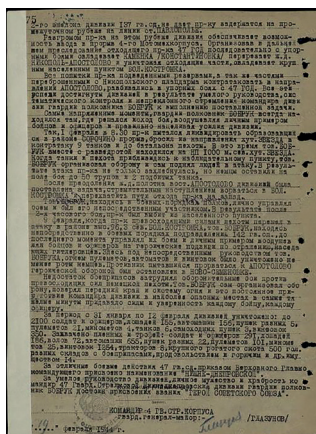
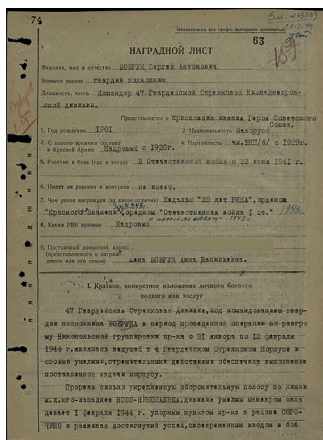
*Memorial complex «Khatyn». Logoisk district
Source: «Belarus Segodnya» Publishing House*



*Hero of the Soviet Union Sergei Antonovich Bobruk
(15.02.1901 — 18.03.1962)*

Source: GIS «Memory of the People»

In the submission of February 19, 1944 for granting the title Hero of the Soviet Union to S.A. Bobruk, the commander of the 4th Guards Rifle Corps, Major of the Guards General V.A. Glazunov noted:



*Military award certificate of S.A. Bobruk. Source: GIS
«Memory of the People»*

«On February 9, when the enemy with superior infantry forces launched an attack in the area of the heights. 96.3 north of Bol. Kostromka, Comrade Bobruk, staying directly within the combat formations of the unit of the 142nd Guards Rifle Regiment, commanded their combat operations until the last moment and by personal example inspired the soldiers and officers to heroic feats in repelling the advancing Nazis. Here, under the direct leadership of Comrade Bobruk, at least a company of Germans was destroyed by machine gun, submachine gun and rifle fire. The enemy, trying to break through to Apostolovo, was stopped in Novo-Semyenovka by heroic defense. <...>

For his skillful command of the division, personal courage and bravery, the commander of the 47th Guards Lower Dnieper Rifle Division, Colonel of the Guards Bobruk, deserves to be awarded the title “HERO OF THE SOVIET UNION”»
02.19.1944

Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic



More than 700 thousand residents were mobilized from the territory of the Georgian SSR with a population of 3.5 million people,.

By the beginning of 1942, 9 divisions were formed on the territory of the Georgian SSR, which heroically fought in the Battle of the Caucasus. Two representatives of the republic — Colonel Generals K.N. Leselidze and P.G. Chanchibadze — became commanders of the armies.

Residents of Georgia made their contribution to the partisan movement. In the territory of occupied Ukraine, as part of the partisan unit of General S.A. Kovpak, one of the regiments was commanded by Hero of the Soviet Union Lieutenant Colonel D.I. Bakradze. In Byelorussia, the Polotsk partisan brigade under brigade commander V.E. Talakvadze and the Pinsk partisan unit under Colonel I.G. Shubitidze fought.





*Deputy political officer of the machine gunners' company
of the 104th separate special mountain rifle detachment
of the 351st rifle division, Apollon Palavandishvili,
at a position in the Caucasus Mountains.*

Source: RIA Novosti Mediabank

People of the Georgian SSR who stayed in the rear also contributed to the victory. Sanatoriums, rest homes, other medical institutions and some schools were used as evacuation hospitals that appeared from the very first days of the war.

Equipment and personnel from the Taganrog and Simferopol aircraft plants were transferred to the workshops of the Tbilisi aircraft plant into. Already in November 1941, aircraft manufacturing was launched.



*One of the aircraft purchased using funds
from Georgian workers. LaGG-3 fighteraircraft,
North Caucasus, summer 1943.
Source: «Military Album» website*



Mikhail Yegorov and Meliton Kantaria hoist the Victory Banner over the Reichstag. Source: RIA Novosti Mediabank

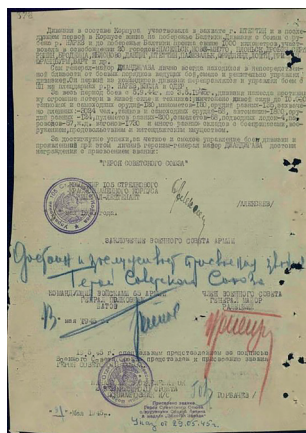
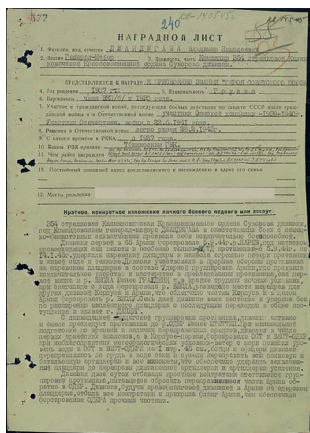
Other enterprises were also involved in supplying the aircraft industry with materials. The Georgian film-copying factory switched to producing aircraft varnishes, the Georgian chemical plant produced casein glue and paints, textile enterprises produced special fabrics, and furniture and plywood factories produced veneer and wooden parts for aircraft.

137 citizens living in the Georgian SSR were awarded the title of the Hero of the Soviet Union for their military exploits, including Senior Sergeant M. V. Kantaria, who hoisted the Victory Banner over the Reichstag in 1945. Over 240 thousand were awarded orders and medals.



*Hero of the Soviet Union Vladimir Nikolaevich
Dzhandzhgava (01.06.1907 — 10.04.1982)*

Source: GIS «Memory of the People»



*Military award certificate of V.N. Dzhandzhgava. Source:
GIS «Memory of the People»*

«Submission for the title of Hero of the Soviet Union to the commander of the 354th Kalinkovich Red Banner Order of Suvorov Rifle Division, Major General Vladimir Nikolaevich Dzhandzhgava. Summary of personal combat feat:

«The 354th Kalinkovich Red Banner Order of Suvorov Rifle Division under the command of Major General Dzhandzhgava proved its exemplary combat ability in the fierce battles with the Nazi invaders. <...>

Major General Dzhandzhgava himself was always in close proximity to the battle formations engaged in the battle, boldly and decisively commanded the OP on the bridgeheads of the Narev, Vistula and Oder rivers. <...> For these achievements, clear and courageous command of the division's combat operations and the personal heroism, Major General Dzhandzhgava deserves to be awarded the title: "HERO OF THE SOVIET UNION"» Signatories: Commander of the 105th Red Banner Rifle Corps, Lieutenant General D.F. Alekseev. 05.31.1945

Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic



The contribution of the peoples of the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic to the Victory over Nazi Germany and its allies was invaluable: metals, coal, oil, thousands of tons of food supplies and hundreds of thousands of human lives.

In the republic with its population of 6.1 million people, more than 1.3 million people were mobilized during the war, another 790 thousand people — in the labor army, schools and colleges of labor reserves.

During the war, 12 rifle divisions, 4 cavalry divisions and 7 rifle brigades, about 50 separate regiments and battalions of various branches of arms, including 2 artillery and 4 mortar divisions, 3 air regiments, 14 separate battalions were formed in the Kazakh SSR.

The legendary 8th Guards Panfilov Division, formed in Alma-Ata, distinguished itself in the Battle of Moscow. The 310th and 314th divisions were actively involved in the defense and breakthrough of the siege of Leningrad.





*Major General I.V. Panfilov with the 316th Rifle Division
staff on the frontline, November 18, 1941
Source: RIA Novosti Mediabank*

In the hard days of September 1941, the Kazakh akyn Zhambul Zhabayev addressed Leningraders: «Leningraders, my children! Leningraders, my pride!» Leaflets with the poet's verses were pasted up on the walls of houses, broadcast over the radio, inspiring resistance to the invaders.



*Ленинградцы, дети мои!
Ленинградцы, гордость моя!
Мне в струе степного ручья
Виден отблеск невской струи.
Если вдоль снеговых хребтов
Взором старческим я скользну —
Вижу своды ваших мостов,
Зорь балтийских голубизну,
Фонарей вечерних рои,
Золоченых крыш острия...
Ленинградцы, дети мои!
Ленинградцы, гордость моя!*

Leaflet with the text of Dz. Dzhabaev's poem.

Source: Tengry News

The Kazakh SSR made a significant contribution to the struggle for Victory by working in the rear. After the outbreak of the war, 142 enterprises and more than 500 thousand people were evacuated there.

Kazakhstan accounted for 50% of copper ore extraction, 65% of metallic bismuth extraction, 70% of polymetallic ore extraction, and 85% of lead production. During the war, miners in Karaganda extracted 35 million tons of coal.

The citizens of the republic donated funds to build tank units, air squadrons, torpedo boats and airplanes bearing personal names.

Agricultural workers of the Kazakh SSR supplied most of the country with their bread and vegetables.



Supplying grain to the state. Alma-Ata region, 1941

Source: Central State Archives of Almaty

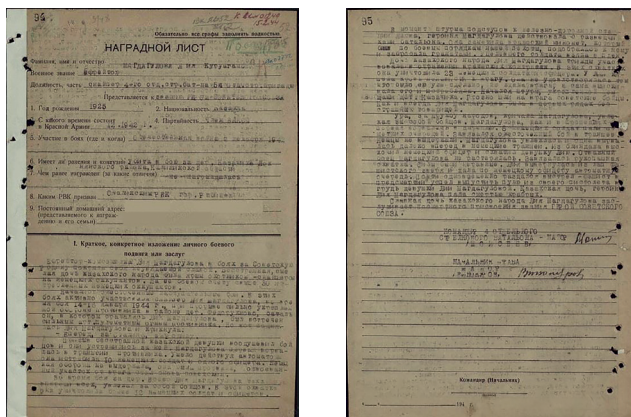
615 natives of the republic became Heroes of the Soviet Union, seven became twice Heroes, and 200 became full holders of the Order of Glory.



*Hero of the Soviet Union Aliya Nurmukhambetovna Moldagulova
(25.10.1925 — 14.01.1944)*

Source: Regional Memorial Museum of Aliya Moldagulova, Aktobe

Submission for granting the title of Hero of the Soviet Union to sniper of the 4th separate rifle battalion of the 54th separate rifle brigade, corporal Aliya Nurmukhambetovna Moldagulova,. Brief description of personal feat of arms: «A daughter of the Kazakh people, Aliya Moldagulova, thrice participated in repelling enemy counterattacks. In these battles, she destroyed 28 German soldiers and an officer. <...>



Military award certificate of A.N. Moldagulova Source: GIS «Memory of the People»

8 German soldiers fell from her precise shots. A fierce battle started in the trench. The Germans could not withstand it. Moldagulova got carried away and broke far ahead into the German trenches alone, a German officer jumped out of the dugouts and grabbed the girl Aliya. The brave fighter Moldagulova did not lose her head. Hand-to-hand combat ensued. The forces were unequal, Aliya wriggled out of the clutches of the fascist beast and fired a burst of machine gun fire at the German officer. Almost immediately, a shot rang out — the fascist managed to fire a bullet from his pistol into the chest of the girl, Aliya Moldagulova, before his death. The Kazakh daughter, heroine Aliya Moldagulova died a heroic death.

The glorious daughter of the Kazakh people Aliya Moldagulova deserves to be awarded the title “HERO OF THE SOVIET UNION” posthumously».

Signatories: Commander of the 4th separate rifle battalion Major F.I. Moiseyev

Chief of Staff Major G.K. Vinokurov

Kirghiz Soviet Socialist Republic



With a population of 1.5 million people, the Kirghiz SSR sent about 365 thousand people to the front.

The 107th, 108th and 109th Kirghiz cavalry divisions, the 4th, 40th and 153rd rifle brigades and the 385th rifle division and reserve cavalry regiment were formed in Kirghizia.

The legendary 316th rifle division, which defended Moscow, was formed in Alma-Ata from natives of Kirghizia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, and was later transformed into the 8th Guards Rifle Division named after Hero of the Soviet Union Major General I.V. Panfilov.

Three light bomber regiments, two motor transport battalions, a separate road maintenance battalion, a rear services battalion, a horse pack company, and three horse depots were created.





Tank unit «Soviet Kyrgyzstan», built with funds from residents of the republic. 1942. Source: Central State Archive of Film, Photo, and Sound Documents of the Kyrgyz Republic

The mining industry of the Kirghiz SSR supplied the military industry sector of the Soviet Union with tungsten concentrate necessary for the production of high-quality steel, as well as with mercury, lead and antimony, and supplied all Central Asia with coal mined in Kirghiz deposits.

During the war, Kirghiz collective and state farms supplied thousands of tons of bread, potatoes and meat.



*Women collect clothes for the front in the city of Frunze, 1941.
Source: Central State Archive of Film, Photo, and Sound
Documents of the Kyrgyz Republic*

During the war, the Kirghiz SSR accommodated over 600 thousand evacuees, and almost one third of them remained in the republic. In 1941–1942, 41 evacuated orphanages and 3,438 children arrived here from the western regions of the USSR. Raising orphans became a widespread activity in the rear, many families took in one or two children.

During the war, 25 evacuation hospitals operated in the republic, saving the lives of thousands of wounded front-line soldiers.

Equipment from over 30 large plants, factories and workshops from the occupied regions of Russia, Ukraine and Belarus was evacuated to the republic.

In February 1942, in less than two weeks, 48 train cars of food aid and warm clothing were collected and sent to Leningrad.



Members of the Kyrgyz delegation loading parcels for besieged Leningrad, 1942. Source: Central State Archive of Film, Photo, and Sound Documents of the Kyrgyz Republic

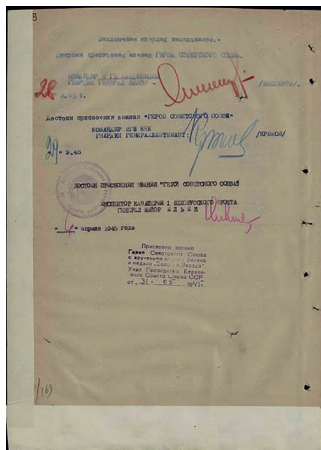
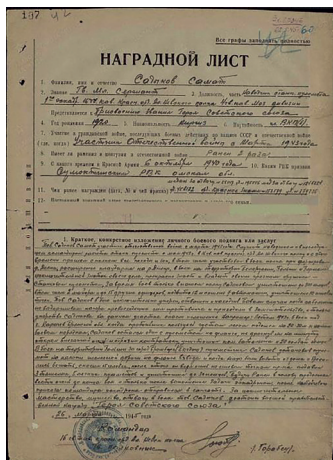




*Hero of the Soviet Union Samat Sadykov
(08.05.1920 — 01.05.1945). Source: The Kyrgyz Photo
Archive Project*

Submission for granting the title of Hero of the Soviet Union to a heavy machine gunner of the 1st squadron of

the 16th Guards Red Banner Order of Alexander Nevsky Cavalry Regiment of the 4th Guards Mozyr Cavalry Division, 2nd Guards Cavalry Corps, Guards Junior Sergeant Samat Sadykov. Brief description of personal combat feat:



*Military award certificate of S. Sadykov. Source: GIS
«Memory of the People»*

«...Though wounded in the head, he continued to fire until the end of the battle and only after the squadron had completed its mission, following the insistent order of the squadron commander, he went to the medical unit. For exceptional skill, courage, and bravery in battle, Comrade Sadykov is worthy of the highest government award, “HERO OF THE SOVIET UNION”».

Signatory:

Commander of the 16th Guards Red Banner Order of Alexander Nevsky Cavalry Regiment, Colonel of the Guards I.M. Gorobets
03.26.1945

Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic



By the beginning of the war, about 1.9 million people lived in the Latvian SSR; 57 thousand people were mobilized into the ranks of the Red Army.

In the defensive battles of 1941, an important role was played by volunteer Latvian extermination battalions, workers' armed units and regiments. Some of their fighters later joined the partisan units operating in the territory of the Latvian SSR.

The 201st Latvian Rifle Division was formed in 1941 and comprised about 10 thousand people. The division went through its baptism of fire in the Battle for Moscow.

On October 5, 1942, for the courage and perseverance shown in battle, for the heroism of the personnel, by order of the People's Commissar of Defense, the division was given the name «The 43rd Guards Latvian Rifle Division».

In 1944, for capturing Riga, the division was awarded the honorary title of the «Riga» division.





Soldiers of the 201st Latvian Rifle Division, Borovsk, 1942
Source: Public organization for perpetuating the memory
of those killed in defense of the Fatherland, search squad
«Patriot»



*«Riga: the path is blocked by the enemy,
we will destroy them»*

Source: Internet resource «Immortal Regiment»

In January-October 1944, the 308th Latvian Rifle Division was formed, which was awarded the Red Banner title for its distinction in battle. Both Latvian Rifle Divisions were merged into the 130th Latvian Rifle Corps.

During the war, 28 Latvians became Heroes of the Soviet Union.



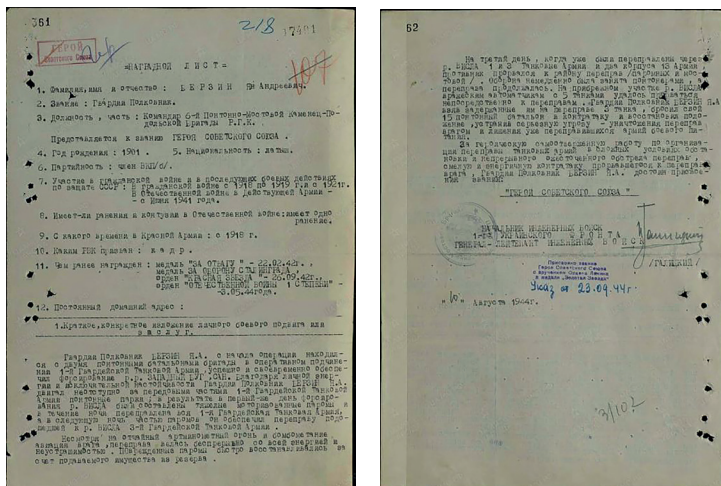
Division commander Ya. Veiken (right) at the monument to the soldiers of the 43rd Guards Latvian Rifle Riga Division, 1960. Source: official account of the Administration of the Naro-Fominsk Urban District



*Hero of the Soviet Union Yan Andreevich Berzin
(09.09.1901 — 03.07.1956). Source: GIS «Memory of the People»*

Submission for granting the title of the Hero of the Soviet Union to the commander of the 6th Kamenets-Podolsk pontoon bridge brigade R.G.K Guards Colonel Yan Andreevich Berzin. Brief summary of personal combat feat:

«... As a result, on the very first day of forcing the Vistula River, heavy motorized ferries were assembled and overnight the entire 1st Guards Tank Army crossed over, and the following night, part of the ferries provided for the crossing of the 3rd Guards Tank Army that had approached the Vistula River.



*Military award certificate of Ya. A. Berzin
Source: GIS «Memory of the People»*

For his heroic and selfless work in organizing the crossing of tank armies in difficult conditions and under continuous heavy shelling of the crossings, a bold and energetic counterattack of the enemy who broke through to the crossing, Guards Colonel Berzin Ya.A. deserves to be awarded the title “HERO OF THE SOVIET UNION”. Signatory — Chief of the Engineering Troops of the 1st Ukrainian Front, Lieutenant General of the Engineering Troops I.P. Galitsky.
08.10.1944

Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic



By the beginning of the war, the population of the Lithuanian SSR was 2.9 million people. According to various assessments, about 108 thousand Lithuanians were mobilized into the Red Army.

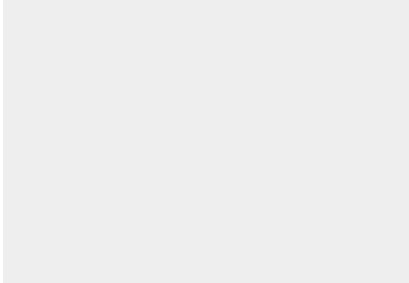
In 1941–1942, the local underground movement consisted of 12 armed units and 24 groups totaling about 1,400 people. Lithuanian partisans destroyed warehouses, blew up the enemy's cargoes and trains. For their outstanding feats, 8 partisans and underground fighters of Lithuania were awarded the title Hero of the Soviet Union.

Petras Simenas was one of the active fighters against the Nazi invaders. He and his comrades managed to blow up a food warehouse near Kaunas, as well as several barges transporting grain from Lithuania to Germany.





Partisans blowing up railway tracks by partisans
Source: Sputnik



In December 1941, the State Defense Committee decided to restore the 16th Rifle Division. It mainly comprised evacuees and refugees from Lithuania, as well as officers and soldiers of the 29th Lithuanian Territorial Rifle Corps.

The division won glory in the Battle of Kursk and during the liberation of the Baltics. In 1944, for the defense breach nearby Šiauliai, the division was awarded the Order of the Red Banner.

In 1945, the division particularly distinguished itself in the battles for Klaipeda in the Memel Offensive Operation, for which it was subsequently granted the honorary title of «Klaipeda».



*Memorial to the fallen soldiers of the 16th Lithuanian
Klaipeda Red Banner Rifle Division in Nevel. Source: MK*



*Hero of the Soviet Union Vaclovas Vaclovič Bernotenas
(11.10.1917 — 27.12.1978.) Source: GIS «Memory of the People»*

Submission for granting the title of Hero of the Soviet Union to Lieutenant Vaclovas Vaclovič Bernotenas, commander of the foot reconnaissance platoon of the 156th rifle regiment of the 16th Lithuanian rifle division, for. Brief description of personal combat feat:

Slowly, straining his last strength and often losing consciousness, he began to crawl towards the friendly lines.

[illegible]

For seven days, eating grass and sucking earth to quench his thirst, Bernotenas crawled in the direction of friendly forces, passing mined fields, and, finally, 30 meters from our front line, he was spotted and picked up.

In this battle, Comrade Bernotenas set the high example of fearlessness, selfless devotion to his Motherland, remarkable willpower and genuine Bolshevik persistence in the struggle for happiness, freedom and independence of his Great Fatherland.

As one of the best sons of Soviet Lithuania, he is worthy of being awarded the title “HERO OF THE SOVIET UNION”».

Signatory — Commander of the 156th Rifle Regiment
Major A.A. Kessel.
07.07.1943

Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic



The population of the Moldavian SSR by the beginning of the war was 2.7 million people. About 400 thousand residents of the republic fought on the frontlines of the Great Patriotic War.

At the beginning of the war, thanks to timely evacuation measures, almost all specialists, a quarter of industrial workers, railway workers, doctors, and teachers with families left for the eastern regions of the USSR.

From the autumn of 1941 to mid-1943, the main form of resistance of the workers of the Moldavian SSR was the subversion as well as outreach and propaganda activities carried out by underground organizations and sabotage of the occupiers' activities by residents of the republic.

More than four thousand wagons with valuable industrial equipment from large factories in Tiraspol, Rybnitsa, Chisinau, as well as agricultural machinery, grain, food, and about 180 thousand heads of various livestock were sent deep into the territory of the Soviet Union.





*Tank unit «For Soviet Moldavia»
Source: AO Publishing House «Komsomolskaya Pravda»*

At the factories and plants in Moscow and the Urals, in the mines of Karaganda and Kuzbass, in the oil fields of Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan, on railway transport, in the collective and state farms of Kazakhstan, Central Asia and the Caucasus, hand in hand with representatives of other nations, tens of thousands of citizens evacuated from the Moldavian SSR worked and forged victory over the enemy.

Over 2,000 people worked in the coal mines of Kuzbass alone, and about 5,000 workers and employees of the Kishinev Railway worked on the construction of new railway lines in the North Caucasus. Agronomists, doctors, teachers and other specialists evacuated from Moldavia worked selflessly in the eastern regions of the country.

More than 250,000 residents of the republic were awarded orders and medals for the courage and heroism they showed in battle. Of these, 19 natives of the Moldavian land became Heroes of the Soviet Union and 7 became full holders of the Order of Glory.





Residents of Kishinev greet the Red Army units that liberated the city in 1944. Source: Website «War Album»



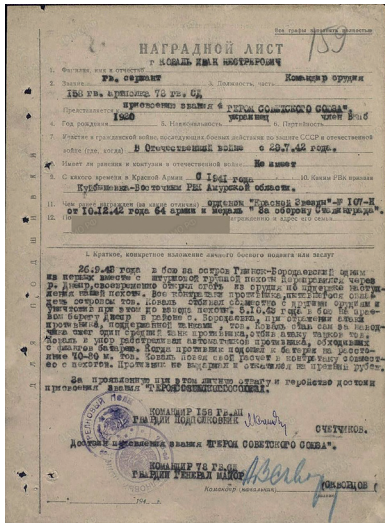
*Hero of the Soviet Union Ivan Nesterovich Koval
(28.05.1920 — 05.02.1980). Source: GIS «Memory of the People»*

Submission for granting the title of Hero of the Soviet Union of the gun commander of the 158th Guards Artillery Regiment of the 78th Guards Rifle Division, Guards Sergeant Ivan Nesterovich Koval. Brief description of personal combat feat:

*Military award certificate
of I.N. Koval. Source: GIS
«Memory of the People»*

«On September 26, 1943, in the battle for island Glinsk-Borodaevsky, he was one of the first, together with an infantry assault group, to cross the Dnieper River, and opened fire from a gun in a timely manner to support the advance of our infantry. Comrade Koval, together with other gunners, repelled all counterattacks by the enemy attempting to seize the island, destroying nearly a platoon of the enemy's infantry. On October 5, 1943, in a battle on the right bank of the Dnieper near the village of Borodaevka, while repelling an enemy attack supported by tanks, Comrade Koval, having become a gunner himself, burned one medium tank of the enemy, repelling the attack of the tanks; comrade Koval fired point-blank at the enemy machine gunners who were outflanking the battery. When the enemy approached within 70–80 meters of the battery, comrade Koval led his crew in a counterattack together with the infantry. The enemy could not withstand and rolled backward to the previous line».

For the personal courage and heroism, he deserves to be awarded the title “HERO OF THE SOVIET UNION”». Signatory: Commander of the 158th Guards Artillery Regiment, Colonel of the Guards M.I. Schetchikov



Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic



By 1941, 111 million people lived in the RSFSR, about 21.5 million people went to the frontlines.

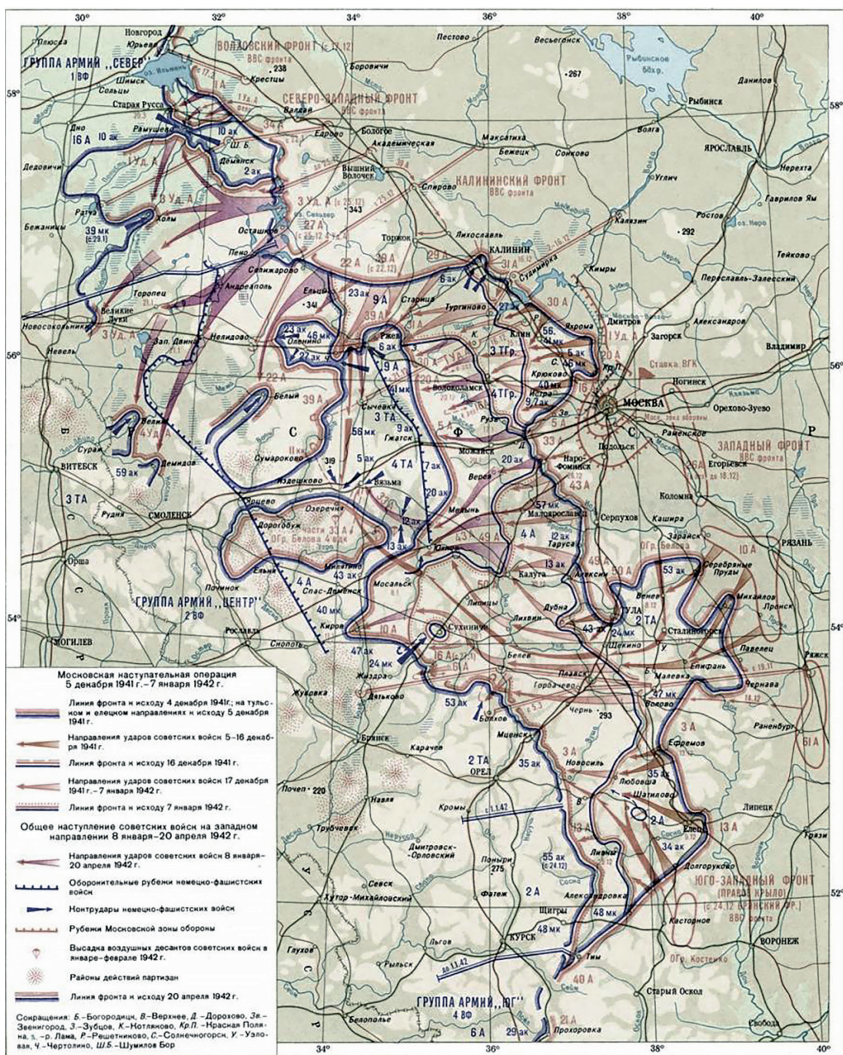
Many Red Army divisions were formed on the territory of the RSFSR, which played a key role in the battles on all fronts.

The major battles of the war took place on the territory of the RSFSR: the Battle for Moscow, the breakthrough of the Siege of Leningrad, the Battles of Kursk and Stalingrad, which became victorious landmarks and symbols of the resilience of the Soviet people.

From the beginning of the war, partisan units began to take shape in the occupied areas of the RSFSR, inflicting serious damage on the German troops, destroying their transport, warehouses and communications.

In 1942, the Central Headquarters of the Partisan Movement was established under the Headquarters of the Supreme Command.





*Map of the Moscow offensive operation
from December 5, 1941 to April 20, 1942
Source: Website of the Russian Ministry of Defense*

Into the first months of the war, thousands of enterprises were evacuated from the western regions of the country to the east. This made it possible to preserve the manufacturing potential and provide the front with the necessary weapons and hardware.

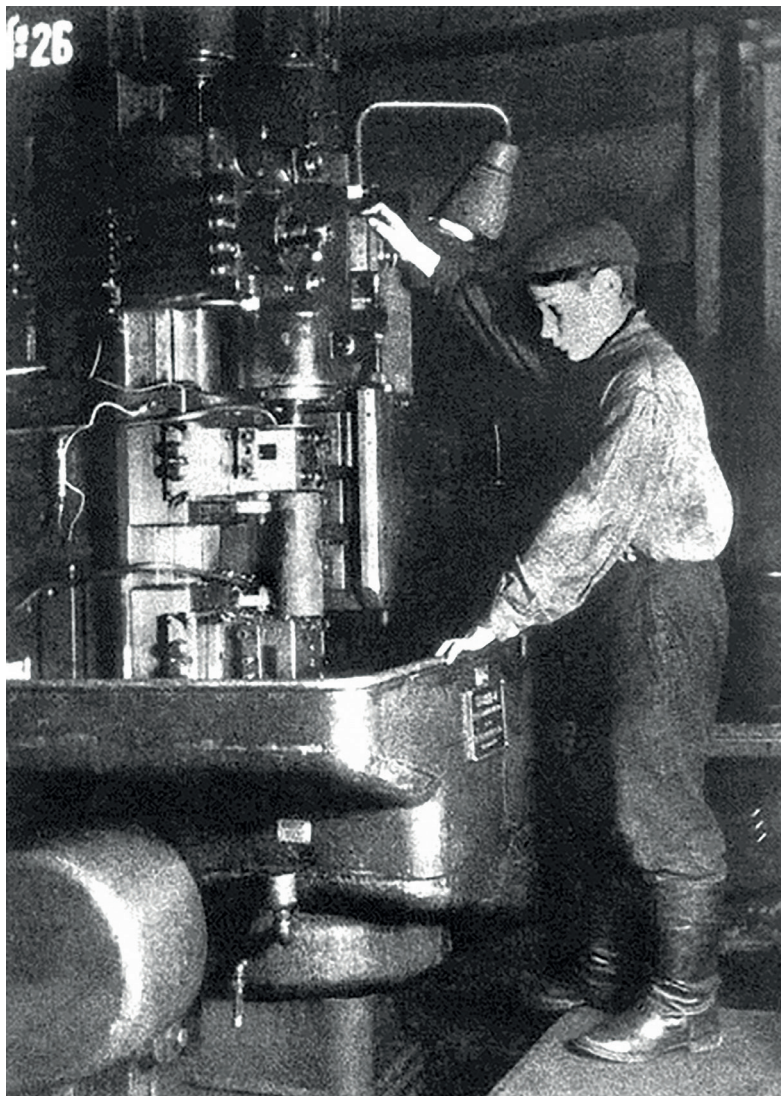
In total, about 3 thousand enterprises were transferred from the western and southern regions to the east of the country. Factories in the Urals, Siberia and the Volga region manufactured tanks, aircraft, artillery guns and ammunition for the Red Army.

Even in wartime, new processing lines were opened at enterprises, and residents of the republic grasped the basics of blue-collar jobs right at the machine tool.

Residents of the RSFSR worked at factories, plants and in agriculture. Women, old people and children replaced men who went to the front, taking workplaces in the industrial sector and on collective farms.

Agricultural enterprises of the RSFSR provided the army with food, despite the difficult conditions of wartime. In 1942, the fertile lands of the South and the Black Earth Region were occupied by the Germans. Despite all the hardships, collective and state farms harvested over 70 million tons of grain in 1941–1944.





A teenage boy at a machine tool at a factory in the USSR, 1942
Source: Website «War Album»



*Hero of the Soviet Union Yakov Fedotovitch Pavlov
(17.10.1917 — 28.09.1981)*

Source: Website «Heroes of the Country»

Submission for granting the title Hero of the Soviet Union to the machine-gun squad commander of the 42nd Guards Vistula Rifle Regiment, 13th Guards Rifle, Poltava Order of Lenin, Twice Red Banner, Order of Suvorov Division, Guards Sergeant Yakov Fedotovitch Pavlov. Brief summary of the military feat:

*Military award certificate
of Ya. F. Pavlov.*

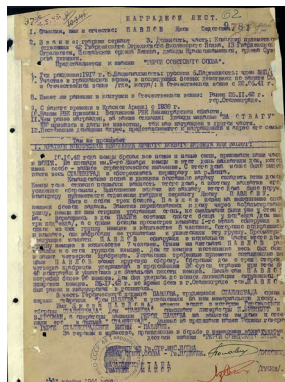
Source: GIS «Memory of the People»

«...Accompanied by three soldiers, Pavlov went on a very difficult combat mission. Noticing them crawling to the house across the paved street, the Germans opened heavy fire on them, but the brave men were already at the walls of the house. Breaking into the house, Pavlov left one fighter at the entrance, and with another one, checked the rooms on the ground floor and discovered a group of eight Germans in one of them. They cautiously crept up to the room and threw grenades inside, destroying the group. Looking through the next rooms, Pavlov discovered a group of seven Germans in the basement of the house. Pavlov also dealt with this group of Germans with machine gun fire. The house was gradually cleared of Germans and occupied by four brave men. Having installed the trophy machine guns left behind by the Germans, Pavlov took up an all-round defense. Defending the house from three sides, the four brave men held on for 30 days, repelling more than 30 counterattacks and destroying up to a battalion of German infantry. Pavlov himself personally exterminated more than 90 Germans. <...>

For heroism and courage shown in the fight against the German invaders, he is worthy of being awarded the title “HERO OF THE SOVIET UNION”».

Signatories:

Commander of the 42nd Guards Vistula Regiment, Hero of the Soviet Union — Lieutenant of the Guards Colonel I.K. Polovets
Chief of Staff of the Guards Major Gusev



Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic



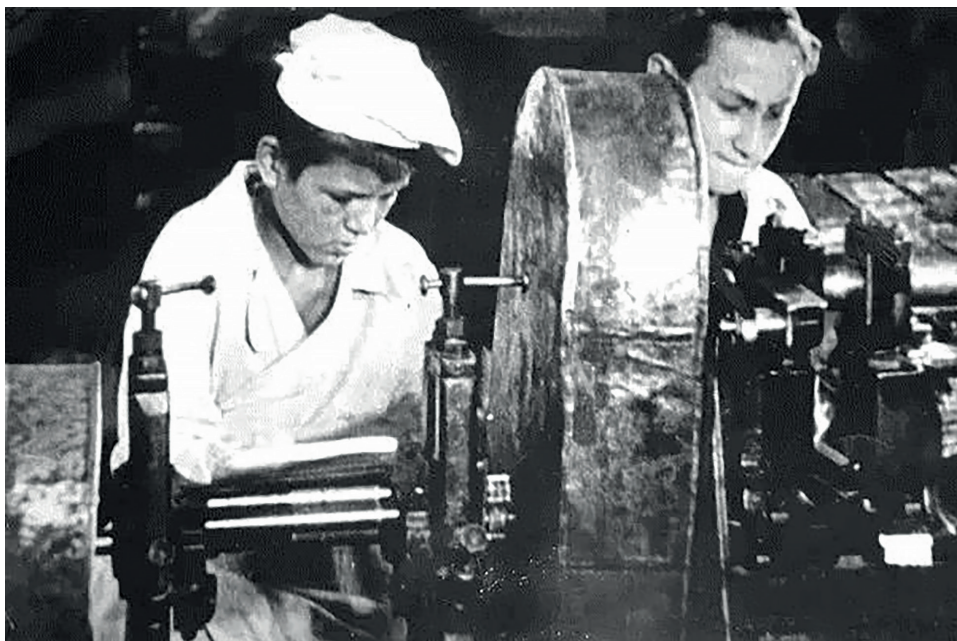
With a population of 1.5 million in the Tajik SSR, 289,000 residents of the republic went to the front. Another 45,000 people went to the labor front, from which many also ended up in military units and formations.

In October 1941, the 20th Red Banner Order of Lenin Tajik Mountain Cavalry Division was sent from Tajikistan to defend Moscow. In September 1943, the 20th Division became the 17th Guards Cavalry Division and ended the combat journey near Berlin, on the banks of the Elbe.

The 61st Cavalry Division, formed in Tajikistan, heroically stood in the way of the tanks of Goth's 4th Panzer Army, which was pushing through towards German General Paulus, who was surrounded in Stalingrad.

From 1941 to 1945, more than 70 clashes occurred in the area controlled by the Pamir border guard, 50 spies and saboteurs and 178 violators were detained.

In January 1943, a letter from the workers of the republic to those on the frontline was published: «Wherever you fight — on the banks of the Don, in the steppes of Ukraine, in the vicinity of Leningrad — you defend Stalinabad, the banks of the Panj, the Pamir Mountains, the valleys of Vakhsh and Leninabad... Russians, Ukrainians, Byelorussians, Georgians, Uzbeks, Tajiks, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz — we are all children of this great Motherland. Our country is the USSR. Sunny Tajikistan is its integral part».



Home front workers in Tajikistan during the Great Patriotic War. Source: Museum of the Council of War and Labor Veterans of Dushanbe

Dozens of enterprises evacuated from Moscow, Leningrad, Ukraine and Byelorussia, upon arrival in the Tajik SSR, launched manufacturing.

Tajikistan became one of the main suppliers of non-ferrous and rare metals necessary for the production of military equipment, weapons and ammunition.

The republic launched the production of military equipment, uniforms, parachute silk, and army boots.

29 evacuation hospitals were deployed. In the fall of 1941, children from two orphanages in Leningrad and the Leningrad region arrived in Stalinabad. Dozens of children were adopted by local families.

Tank units «Tajikistan», «Kolkhoznik Tajikistan», «Komsomolets Tajikistan» and the air squadron «Soviet Tajikistan» were built with the workers' personal funds.

More than 102 thousand workers of the Tajik SSR were awarded the medal «For Valiant Labor during the War Years».

The title of Hero of the Soviet Union was awarded to 54 natives of the Tajik SSR, 14 people became full holders of the Order of Glory, 60 thousand soldiers were awarded orders and medals.



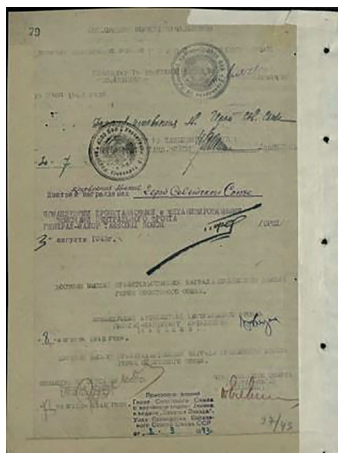
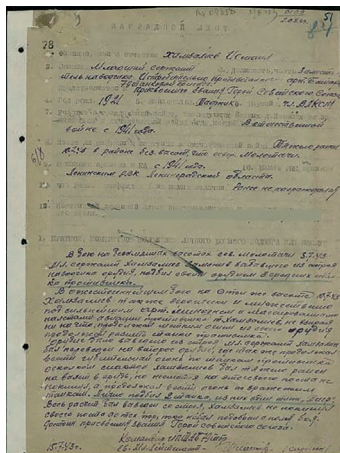


*A collective farmer on a tractor during
the Great Patriotic War.*

*Source: Museum of the Council of War and Labor Veterans
of Dushanbe*



*Hero of the Soviet Union Ismail Khamzaaliev
(19.07.1921 — 16.08.1943). Source: GIS «Memory of the
People»*



*Military award certificate of I. Khamzaliev. Source: GIS
«Memory of the People»*

Submission for granting the title of the Hero of the Soviet Union to the assistant fire adjuster of the tank destroyer artillery battery of the 79th tank brigade, junior sergeant Ismoil Khamzaliyev. Brief description of personal combat feat:

«In the fiercest battle at the same height on 10.07.1943, Khamzaliyev also heroically and courageously, stood the strongest artillery, mine and massive air raids of the enemy. Comrade Khamzaliyev, despite everything, continued to destroy enemy tanks with steadfast fire from his gun. <...> The entire crew was put out of action, but Khamzaliyev did not leave his post until he was picked up from the battlefield. He is worthy of being awarded the title “HERO OF THE SOVIET UNION”».

Signatory:

Commander of the IPTAB of the 79th tank brigade of the Guards. Junior Lieutenant Sirotin
07.15.1943

Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic



With a population of 1.2 million people in the Turkmen SSR, about 300 thousand residents went to the frontline.

In Ashkhabat and large settlements of the republic, volunteer fighter battalions numbering more than 7 thousand people were formed in the first months of the war.

In the fall of 1941, the 87th and 88th separate rifle brigades, the 97th cavalry division and the 98th division were created. They fought on the Kursk Bulge, near Moscow, in the Caucasus, in Stalingrad, and liberated from fascism the countries of Eastern Europe.

The 18th Cavalry Division, which, as part of the 11th Cavalry Corps, operated in the enemy rear west of Vyazma and almost completely perished during the breakout from encirclement in March-July 1942, was predominantly Turkmen.



*Komsomol youth brigade working on the Nebit-Dag oil fields.
Source: Electronic Library of Historical Documents*

The 83rd Mountain Rifle Division, which was transformed into the 128th Guards Turkestan Red Banner Mountain Rifle Division in October 1943, and the 72nd Mountain Rifle Division, which perished in battle in the fall of 1941 on the Southwestern Front.



Teenagers, pensioners and women came to the plants and collective farms to replace the men who went to the front. During the first year of the war, more than 1,000 female machine operators were trained.

More than 7,000 kg of gold and silver jewelry were donated for defense needs, which was equivalent to the cost of creating five tank u and seven air squadrons. The «Kolkhoznik Turkmenistan» squadron and the «Komsomolets Turkmenistan» tank unit were built using part of the personal funds of the Turkmen people. About 200 thoroughbred horses were supplied for the cavalry.

During the war, women of the republic made about a million items of warm clothing for the soldiers of the Red Army.

During the war, 45 orphanages were evacuated to the republic. Turkmen families adopted over 300 homeless children taken from the occupied and front-line regions of the country.

86 thousand fallen soldiers and officers were declared National Heroes of Turkmenistan by decision of the head of state. Their names were entered into the general Book of Memory. 78 thousand Turkmen soldiers were awarded military orders and medals, 25 of them were granted the title of Hero of the Soviet Union, 15 — full cavaliers of the Order of Glory.





*The principal of the Aga-Yusup school in the village of
Arsarib Dovelet is responsible for collecting supplies for the
front from schoolchildren*

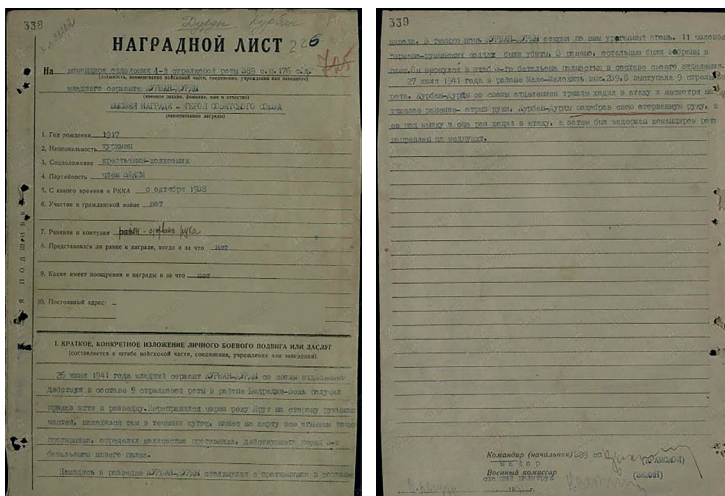
Source: Website «Military Review»



*Hero of the Soviet Union Durdy-Kurban
(25.10.1917 — 12.02.1976).*

Source: GIS «Memory of the People»

Submission for granting the title of Hero of the Soviet Union to the squad commander of the 4th rifle company of the 389 rifle regiment of the 176 rifle division, junior sergeant Kurban-Durdy. Brief description of personal combat feat:



Military award certificate of Durdy-Kurban. Source: GIS «Memory of the People»

«On June 26, 1941, junior sergeant Kurban-Durdy and his squad, operating as part of the 9th rifle company in the Bedradzhi-Vek area, received an order to go on a reconnaissance mission.

On July 27, 1941, the 9th rifle company was advancing in the Malo-Malokish area, height 239.8. Kurban-Durdy and his squad went on an attack three times, despite his serious injury — a severed arm. Kurban-Durdy picked up his severed arm, put it under his armpit and attacked again, and then was stopped by the company commander and sent to the field hospital»

Signatories:

Commander (chief) of the 389th rifle regiment Major S.V. Kramskoy

Military commissar senior political instructor N.I. Zekin
08.03.1941

Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic



With a population of 6.3 million people in the Uzbek SSR, more than 1.4 million of its residents were called up to the front.

From November 1941 to March 1942, 15 divisions and brigades were formed in the Uzbek SSR, including 9 rifle and 5 cavalry ones. The 21st and 44th cavalry divisions fought heroically near Moscow, the 33rd Guards and 112th rifle divisions, and the 90th and 94th Uzbek separate rifle brigades showed their heroism in the Battle of Stalingrad. 2.7 thousand soldiers from the Uzbek SSR were awarded the medal «For the Defense of Stalingrad».

Over 200,000 natives of Uzbekistan were awarded orders and medals for heroism during the war, and another 160,000 for labor exploits in the rear: 338 were Heroes of the Soviet Union, 53 were holders of the Order of Glory of three degrees.



Amidst the Battle of Stalingrad, citizens of the republic addressed the Uzbek soldiers: «Hearken, Stalingrad! Hearken, the front!.. The German Basmachi has broken into the house of your older brother, the Russian, into the house of your brothers, the Byelorussian and the Ukrainian, and others. He brings the brown plague, the gallows and the whip, hunger and death. But the house of the Russian is also home to you, the house of the Ukrainian and the Belarussian is your home, too! For the Soviet Union is a friendly family, where everyone lives, albeit in one's own house, but the yard and the farm are one and indivisible...».



Soviet soldiers: Ukrainian Fedor Oleshko and Uzbek Nugman Anarkulov in liberated Stalingrad. Source RIA Novosti Mediabank

Not only did Uzbekistan contribute to the Victory by sending units formed in the republic to the frontline and providing the front and rear with the necessary raw materials, food, military equipment and weapons, offering shelter and food to hundreds of thousands of evacuees, but also by training scientific, technical and teaching staff, which was urgently needed in wartime conditions.

Tashkent accepted major industrial enterprises evacuated to the republic, as well as families, performance companies and work teams, and many hospitals were located here.

The maximum number of Soviet citizens from the frontline and frontline zone were evacuated to Uzbekistan — over 1.3 million people. By August 1942, about 3 thousand families of the Uzbek SSR took in evacuated children for upbringing, refusing financial assistance from the state.

Poetess Anna Akhmatova, evacuated from besieged Leningrad to Tashkent, wrote: «In Uzbekistan there are already large families with many children, but they adopted Russian, Byelorussian, Ukrainian, Moldavian, Polish, Greek orphans, gave shelter to refugees, shared with them the last piece of bread, sugar, the last bowl of pilaf or milk. I want to believe that no one will ever forget this...».





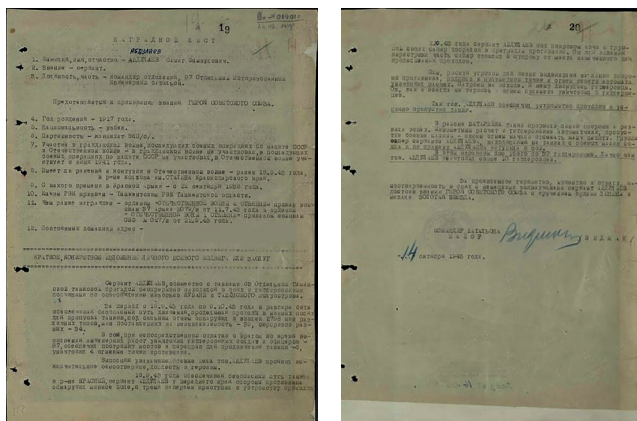
15 Soviet children who lost their parents and were evacuated to Tashkent, adopted by the family of blacksmith Shaakhmed Shamakhmudov. Source: RIA Novosti Mediabank



*Hero of the Soviet Union Samig Fayzulloevich Abdullayev
(25.10.1917 — 10.05.1998). Source: GIS «Memory of the People»*

Submission for granting the title of Hero of the Soviet Union to the squad leader of the 97th separate motorized engineering battalion, Sergeant Abdulaev Samig Faizulloevich. Brief description of personal combat feat:

«Sergeant Abdulaev, together with the tanks of the 63rd separate Taman tank brigade, was continuously in battle with the Nazi hordes to liberate the lower reaches of the Kuban and the Taman Peninsula. <...>



Military award certificate of S.F. Abdullayev. Source: GIS «Memory of the People»

Nearby the settlement of Batareika, the tanks broke through the defense line and developed their success. The mortar crew and Nazi machine gunners, having let the combat vehicles through, began to cut off our infantry with their fire. Sergeant Abdulaev's sapper group, who sat atop the tanks, got off the combat vehicles and, on Abdulaev's orders, entered the battle.

For the heroism, courage, bravery and selflessness shown in battles with the German invaders, Sergeant Abdullayev is worthy of being granted the title “HERO OF THE SOVIET UNION” with the award of the Order of Lenin and the medal “GOLD STAR”.

Signatory: Battalion Commander Major P.I. Vidman
10.14.1943

Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic



By the beginning of the war, 41 million people lived in the Ukrainian SSR, and 4.5 million Ukrainian people went to the front. Over 3.5 million people, more than 500 large industrial enterprises, the property of machine and tractor stations, collective and state farms, about 12 thousand exhibits of museums and art galleries were evacuated from the territory of the republic to the east of the country.



Evacuation of economic property of a Soviet defense plant to the Urals Source: Internet resource «War Album»



The 1st Ukrainian Partisan Division of the SA named after twice Hero of the Soviet Union S.A. Kovpak, Pripyat River area, 1943. Source: State Vladimir-Suzdal Historical, Architectural and Art Museum-Reserve

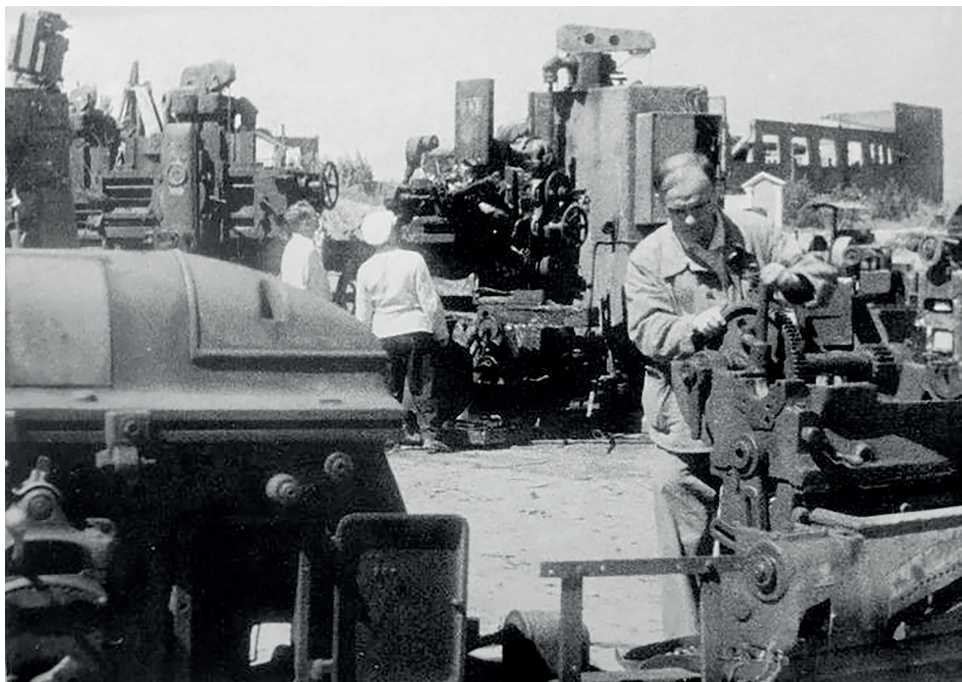
In the summer of 1942, the Ukrainian Headquarters of the Partisan Movement was created, headed by T.A. Strokach. Underground organizations such as «The Young Guard», «People's Guard», «Partisan Spark» and others fought against the occupiers in the midst of violent terror. During the war, over 600 thousand people participated in the partisan movement and underground struggle.

Most of the evacuated industrial enterprises by mid-1942 were already producing more than before the war.



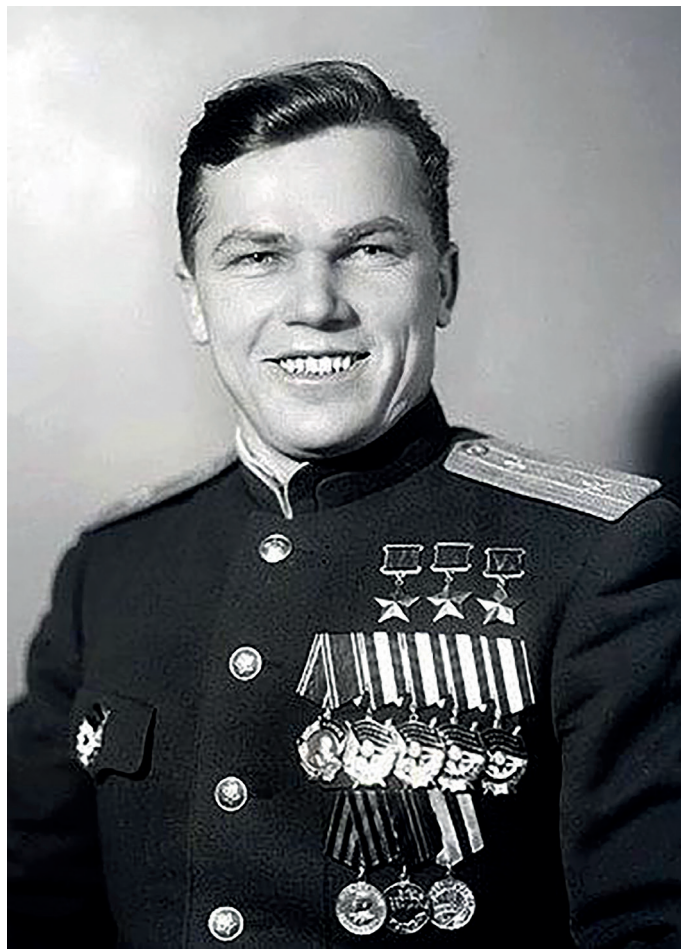
Ukrainian scientists made an invaluable contribution to the victory. Thus, the team of the Electric Welding Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR successfully used their pre-war R&D to enable flux cored arc welding of T-34 tank hulls. A group of Ukrainian scientists led by Academician M. Dobrokhotov developed new methods for smelting armored steels.

Assembly of T-34–76 tanks in Nizhny Tagil using equipment from the evacuated plant No. 183 — Kharkov Locomotive Plant, 1943. Source: Website «War Album»



Equipment from a defense plant unloaded near unfinished workshops, Ural. Autumn, 1941. Source: Website «Military Album»

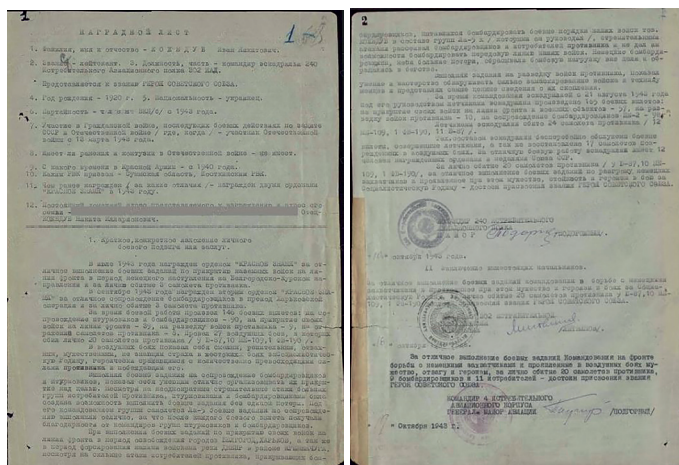
Ukrainians, along with other representatives of the peoples of the USSR, took part in all combat operations. More than a half of 15 fronts were headed by marshals and generals of Ukrainian origin, many successfully commanded armies, corps, and divisions.



*Hero of the Soviet Union Ivan Nikitovich Kozhedub
(08.06.1920 — 08.08.1991). Source: GIS «Memory of the
People»*

Submission for granting the title Hero of the Soviet Union to the squadron commander of the 240th Fighter Aviation Regiment of the 302nd Fighter Aviation

Division, Lieutenant I.N. Kozhedub. Brief summary of personal combat feat from the military award certificate: «... During his combat work, he made 146 combat sorties: 90 to accompany attack aircraft and bombers, 39 to cover his troops on the frontline, 9 to reconnoiter enemy troops, and 8 to repel enemy aircraft. He engaged in 27 air battles, in which he personally shot down 20 enemy aircraft / 9 Ju-87, 10 ME-109, 1 FV-190. <... >



Military award certificate of I.N. Kozhedub. Source: GIS «Memory of the People»

<...For personally downing 20 enemy aircraft / 9 Ju-87, 10 ME-109, FV-190 /, for excellent performance of combat missions to defeat the German invaders and the courage, fortitude, and heroism shown in the battle for the Socialist Motherland — he is worthy of being awarded the title “HERO OF THE SOVIET UNION”».

Signatory — Commander of the 240th Fighter Aviation Regiment Major S.A. Podorozhny.
10.19.1943

Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic



By the beginning of the war, 1.1 million people lived in the Estonian SSR; 45 thousand residents of the republic were mobilized to the front.

From the outset of the Great Patriotic War, the soldiers of the 22nd Estonian Rifle Corps bravely fought against the enemy; its soldiers and commanders later joined the 7th and 249th Estonian Rifle Divisions. At the end of 1942, on their basis, the 8th Estonian Rifle Corps was created, which became famous during the liberation of Velikiye Luki. 12 soldiers of the corps became Heroes of the Soviet Union.

For courage, heroism and military skill shown in battles with the Nazi invaders, the corps became a guards corps and received the honorary name of «Tallin».





*Soldiers and officers of the 249th Estonian Rifle Division,
Luga, summer 1944. Source: «Runivers» Internet resource*

Immediately after the attack of Nazi Germany on the USSR, Estonian volunteer fighter battalions and workers' detachments were formed in all counties and cities of republican subordination at the call of the Communist Party of the Estonian SSR. The fighter battalions of Tallinn and the counties of Pärnu, Tartu, Järva, Viru and Lääne formed the 1st Estonian Rifle Regiment with 1,500 men, which heroically defended Tallinn.

During the war, 9 citizens of the republic were awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. Arnold Meri was the first among them to be granted this title. He participated in the war from the first days and was awarded for the battle on July 17, 1941, to defend the town of Dno in the Pskov region.

The second Gold Star of the Hero was awarded to Endel Puusepp. In 1941, his plane, as part of a Soviet squadron, bombed Berlin from the air. Then followed the battles at Stalingrad and the Kursk Bulge and a secret mission — a flight to the USA with People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs Vyacheslav Molotov on board to hold negotiations with the allies.





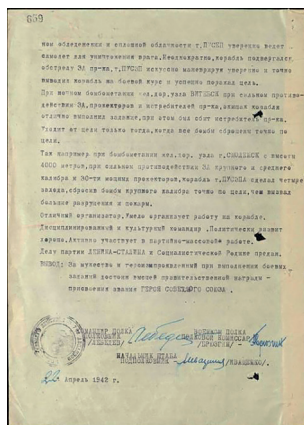
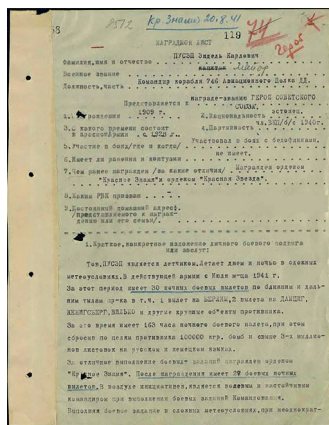
Red Army units enter the city of Tallin, September 22, 1944
Source: Website «Runivers»



*Hero of the Soviet Union Endel Karlovich Pusep (Puusep)
(01.05.1909 — 18.01.1996). Source: GIS «Memory of the People»*

Sumbission for granting the title Hero of the Soviet Union to the commander of the ship of the 746th Aviation Regiment DD. Major Endel Karlovich Puusepp. Brief description of personal combat feat:

«Comrade Puusepp is a pilot. He flies day and night in difficult weather conditions. In the active army since July 1941. <...>



*Military award certificate of E.K. Puusepp. Source: GIS
«Memory of the People»*

For example, when bombing the railway junction near the city of Smolensk from a height of 4000 meters, with strong counteraction from large and medium caliber antiaircraft guns and 30 powerful searchlights, the aircraft of comrade Puusepp made four approaches, dropping large caliber bombs precisely on target, causing considerable damage and fires. <...>

Conclusion: For courage and heroism shown in the performance of combat missions, he is worthy of the highest government award — the title “HERO OF THE SOVIET UNION”».

Signatories — regiment commander Colonel V.I. Lebedev, regiment military commissar Colonel Commissar A.S. Bryuzgin, chief of staff Lieutenant Colonel A.N. Ivaschenko.
04.22.1942

WE WON TOGETHER!



On June 22, 1941, the USSR was engaged in an armed confrontation not only with the strongest military Western state of the time, the Third Reich, but also with an entire bloc of its allies. The military and economic resources of the entire of Europe also served the Nazis. Yet the people of

the USSR stood up and won.



The First Victory Day Parade, June 24, 1945

Source: Global Look Press website



Victory Day on Red Square, Moscow, 1945. Source: RBC

The victory of the Soviet Union in the war predetermined the outcome of the main event of the twentieth century — the Second World War. The victory in this war decided the

fate of the whole world, and the Yalta-Potsdam system of international relations set up by the leaders of the victorious states, marked the path for the development of humanity for decades to come.



Even now, as we are celebrating the 80th anniversary of the Victory, all of humanity largely lives in a world shaped by its results.

Address by the Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States to the Peoples of the Commonwealth and the World Community on the Occasion of the 80th Anniversary of the Victory of the Soviet People in the Great Patriotic War of 1941–1945

October 8, 2024

«We, the Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States, call upon the peoples of the Commonwealth and the peoples of the world to prevent the revival of fascism, Nazism, and militarism, and to suppress attempts to unleash a new world war.

80 years ago, the historic Victory of the multinational Soviet people in the Great Patriotic War was won. This war, which became the bloodiest in the history of mankind, took the lives of millions of our compatriots who died on the war fronts, in partisan units, under bombing, tortured during occupation and concentration camps, and died of cold and hunger.

The most difficult war in the history of mankind ended victoriously in May 1945, largely due to the unity, unbending fortitude and heroic self-sacrifice of our peoples. Brotherhood in arms and labor feat ensured Victory in the Great Patriotic War. We are proud that, having gone through all the trials, the peoples of our states made an invaluable contribution to achieving the final Victory over fascism. Noting the special significance of the anti-Hitler coalition as a unique historical unification of the efforts of states with different political systems in countering a universal threat, we recall that the actions of the main Nazi criminals, who bear full responsibility for unleashing and waging the Second World War, were



Leaders of the member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States. From open sources

recognized as criminal by the Verdict of the International Military Tribunal. We emphasize that the facts of the expulsion and extermination of the civilian population by the Nazis and their accomplices, established in the Verdict, must be regarded as genocide of the peoples of the Soviet Union. Today, we must not forget the fundamental assessments of the criminal activities of the Nazi leaders, which were given by the Nuremberg Tribunal and confirmed by the UN General Assembly. Attempts to place equal responsibility for the outbreak of war on the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany are immoral and blasphemous in relation to the memory of the liberators of the world from the "brown plague".

We strongly condemn the desire to justify the true culprits of the war, to diminish the role of our peoples in the defeat of Nazism, to rehabilitate the accomplices of Hitler's executioners and those who fought against the anti-Hitler coalition, collaborated with the Nazi movement and committed war crimes and crimes against humanity.

We, the heads of state of the CIS member states, appeal to the peoples of the Commonwealth countries and the world community to condemn and prevent the falsification of history, to resolutely oppose the justification and glorification of Nazi, fascist and similar nationalist movements, their followers, including the construction of monuments and memorials that promote racism, religious discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in all its forms and manifestations.

We express deep concern about the increasing number of deliberate attempts and cases of desecration or destruction of monuments erected in honor of those who fought against Nazism during the Second World War, and urge respect for memorials and burial sites regardless of their location, ensuring unimpeded access to them, preventing acts of vandalism and their destruction.

We call for condemnation and prosecution of those who insult the memory of the liberator soldiers and glorify Nazi criminals and their accomplices.

In this regard, we welcome the UN General Assembly resolution "Combating the glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination,

xenophobia and related intolerance", and express our commitment to the goals and principles of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. We consider the broad support for these important documents as a confirmation of the determination of the international community to prevent a repetition of the tragic mistakes of the past and to build the future on unifying principles.

Our common duty is to sacredly honor the memory of those who died for freedom and peace on Earth, to defend with all our might the just cause for which they fought and gave their lives, to strengthen in every way the unity of all people of good will in the fight against any manifestations of Nazism and neo-Nazism, as well as the threat of a new world war».



«Prometheus» Publishing House
119002 Moscow, Arbat St., 51, building 1
Tel.: +7(495) 730–70–69
E-mail: info@prometej.su



ANO «Institute of Diaspora and Integration»
(«Institute of CIS Countries»), 2025



Foundation for Supporting and Protecting the Rights of
Compatriots Living Abroad, 2025

ISBN 978-5-00172-777-4



9 785001 727774 >