

UNIVERSAL IMPORTANCE OF THE AID BY KAZAKHSTAN AND KYRGYZSTAN TO BLOCKADED LENINGRAD

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Abstract: Prior to the beginning of the Great Patriotic War, Leningrad helped two republics to restore their economies after the Civil War. Therefore, in the days of the blockade, the question of assistance to the besieged city became important for Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. Two countries, along with other countries of the Soviet Union, did all necessary to maintain the life of Leningrad dying of hunger. So, thanks to the help of two republics, it became possible to increase the amount of food products for besieged Leningrad residents who in November 1941 received 125 grams of bread. The help of the entire Soviet Union including Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan allowed the city of Leningrad to stand out under the pressure of the Nazi army. Therefore, the universal importance of the aid to besieged Leningrad by Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan was considerable.

Keywords: Defense of Leningrad, aid to the beleaguered city by Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, fight against Nazi invaders.

INTRODUCTION

The Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945 went down in history as the testimony of the highest strength of mind and self-sacrifice shown by the Soviet people in fight against Nazi invaders. It became a severe test for the Soviet people. The victory over fascist troops was reached at the cost of huge losses and sacrifices. The specific place in the Great Patriotic War is held by the Battle of Leningrad. In terms of its duration, persistence, unprecedented firmness and tragedy endured by defenders of the blockaded city and soldiers who battled for it on the external front of blockade, it has no equal in the world military history. Analyzing the reasons of the Red Army's defeats at the initial stage of the Great Patriotic War, and the results of the first military progress of the end of 1941, it is possible to draw the conclusion that the Soviet people have stood out only thanks to high patriotism, belief in their victory, strength of mind and unity. Two fraternal peoples took part in the defeat of the fascist Army Group North, which inflicted heavy damage to Leningrad. Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan citizens took active part in heavy fights for the city of "Three revolutions".

METHODS

The general scientific principles of objectivity and historicism made the methodological basis of this research; the methods of comparative-historical, system and analytical and quantitative analysis were also used.

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In this article, the situation on the Northwest front on the eve of the Siege of Leningrad is analyzed; the structure of the Soviet group of troops which has been involved in fighting under the city, its numerical structure, supply of with arms and military equipment is specified. From the comparison of the Soviet and German forces near Leningrad, it is possible to draw the conclusion that the troops of the front had no considerable overweight in manpower that was required for offensive actions, and conceded to the enemy by the number of aircraft and artillery. This circumstance not only balanced the chances of the battle's result, but also played a crucial role in the tragic destiny of the surrounded Soviet troops.

The confrontation with the Finnish Army on the Karelian Isthmus became an important milestone in the Battle of Leningrad. But according to some data, the Finnish Army did not want to occupy the city but only to return the lands lost by them during the winter campaign of 1939-1940. However, the Red Army held large forces against Finland, being afraid of the capture of Leningrad from the north.

As for the management of the armed forces of fascist Germany, it is possible to draw the conclusion that the Wehrmacht had no accurate plan of occupation of the city. It should be reminded that the German command constantly changed the plans concerning the destiny of Leningrad.

It should be noted that the Army Group North was the weakest group of the fascist troops, which were carrying out the plan "Barbarossa". With available military forces, the enemy could not conduct the occupation of the large region of the USSR, which was the northwest direction including the Leningrad Region. In fact, the northern group of the enemy had a limited, not accurate purpose of the approach. Besides, under the attacks of the Red Army which clearly represented their purpose, the commander of the northern group of fascist troops W. von Leeb had to stretch the front of approach, weakening the shock troops advancing towards Leningrad. So, the commander of the 56th Motorized Corps general E. von Manstein had to ask for help because the troops of the Northwest front surrounded his troops in August 1941. It was during the period when the Wehrmacht had the largest force and could solve the most serious problems. Hitler and his confidants overestimated the forces of Germany's army and, vice versa, underestimated the power and capacity of the Soviet Union.

In the first months of the war, the Red Army suffered heavy losses owing to which it had to recede to the east, having left the Baltics, Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine and the western regions of the RSFSR. However, despite serious losses in manpower and equipment, the command of the Northwest and Leningrad fronts clearly realized the purpose of approach of the fascist troops on the northwest direction – Leningrad. Therefore, all forces of attacking troops were thrown for protection of the city.

Despite the taken measures, the Red Army's command made a number of mistakes which led to serious losses and enabled the fascist troops to approach

Leningrad, forming the Mga-Sinyavino projection and some other bridgeheads which the fascist command held up to the beginning of 1944. Therefore, the Supreme High Command General Headquarters of the USSR discharged of the management of the Leningrad front Marshal K.E. Voroshilov, having replaced him by General G.K. Zhukov. G.K. Zhukov's appointment meant that the leadership of the USSR was seriously afraid of the capture of Leningrad.

The errors of the Red Army's command, the superiority of the enemy in manpower and other reasons predetermined the course of fighting on the Leningrad direction.

If the Red Army saw clear aim in combat operations in this direction – the defense of Leningrad, then Wehrmacht aimed to take or block the city.

The contribution to the defeat of fascist army was made by many peoples of the USSR, including Kyrgyzstan citizens. More than 360 thousand Kyrgyzstan people were called up to the Red Army (Samsonov 1973, p. 9). Many of them took active part in defense of Leningrad; however, they were not presented in separate units any more as it took place near Moscow: the share of the soldiers called from the areas of formation was gradually lost, and nevertheless, Leningrad and Kyrgyzstan became connected by the bonds of front brotherhood. In the Battle of Leningrad, Jamil Cholponkulov, who in 1939 defended the master's thesis in biological sciences at the Leningrad University, heroically died (Tokombayev, Ploskikh & Beysheev 2012, p. 96). Among the volunteers who joined the ranks of defenders of Leningrad there was a Kyrgyzstan citizen, a graduate of department of history of the Leningrad State University, Suyun Karimovich Kerimbayev. S.K. Kerimbayev was a propagandist of the 328th Rifle Regiment of the 48th Rifle Division. Among the defenders of Leningrad there was one of the first students of the Kyrgyz State Teacher Training College Lev Aronovich Spektorov, an artillery intelligence agent who on the well-known base near Leningrad called the Nevsky patch destroyed weapon emplacements of the enemy from which there was a shelling of the city. On the Leningrad front, the communist Omurkul Dzhetykashkayev heroically died; he was a former director of the Kyrgyz Philharmonic Hall named after Toktogul Satylganov. Dzhusubaly Rustamov, Matkurban Yunusaliyev, Abdarkul Abduganov and others also bravely battled for the city on Neva (Zhorobekov 1990, p. 522).

According to the data of the commander of the search group “Memorial Zone” M.K. Kusainov, only in the battle for Sinyavino Heights, in different divisions there were more than 500 Kyrgyzstan people as of January 1, 1943 (Kusainov 2006, p. 300). Thanks to M.K. Kusainov's data, the names of six killed Kyrgyzstan citizens, which were registered at the homeland as missing persons, became known.

In total, about 4.5 thousand Kyrgyzstan citizens were involved in the Battle of Leningrad as a part of different divisions.

Many Kyrgyzstan people, executing orders of the command, were awarded government awards. Among them there was Suyun Kerimbayev, subsequently a prominent scientist of the Kyrgyz SSR, Doctor of Historical Sciences, and a laureate of the State Prize of the Kyrgyz SSR. For successful activity in defeat of fascist army, he was awarded with a high government award – the Order of the Red Star (Sagynbayev 2010, p. 22).

The essential contribution to the defeat of the fascist army was made by the Hero of the Soviet Union Nikolay Grigoryevich Lyashchenko. Commanding the 73rd Separate Marine Rifle Brigade, the 18th and 90th Rifle Divisions, N.G. Lyashchenko performed the most difficult tasks which were put before him by the high command of the Red Army. For the successful break of the strengthened area of the Mannerheim Line, N.G. Lyashchenko was appointed to the position of the commandant of the fortress Vyborg by the order of the commander of the 21st Army Colonel General Gusev.

In the difficult days of the defense of Leningrad, the hearts of workers of Kyrgyzstan, as well as all Soviet people, were with Leningrad residents. So, only in October 1942, the workers of Kyrgyzstan collected and sent more than 120 cars with gifts to the fighters of the Red Army and to the defenders of Leningrad. Leningrad represented the invincible spirit of the Soviet people, its readiness, quite apart from any difficulties and deprivations, to defend the Homeland. 16,500 people were evacuated from Leningrad to Kyrgyzstan (TsAMO, p. 502).

Kyrgyzstan in the years of the war looked after the fighting ship of the Baltic Fleet, namely, the cruiser “October Revolution” decorated with the Order of the Red Banner. Patronage gave big help to seamen as the supply of the cruiser and its personnel improved, and it respectively led to the fact that the sailors and officers honestly executed orders of the command, for what received war decorations.

All Kyrgyzstan actively participated in the assistance to Leningrad. The scientific community of the republic, collective farmers, workers and employees stood together against aggressors and rendered various help to the city in the difficult days of the blockade.

An essential contribution to the Battle of Leningrad was made by the participation of the 8th Guards Rifle Division named after the Hero of the Soviet Union Major General I.V. Panfilov. The division played a big role in the fact that the 3rd Motorized Division of SS Totenkopf – Hitler’s pride - stopped its existence. But guardsmen had to solve the most serious fighting problems which were set by the command. According to Panfilov’s guardsman B. Momyshula, the 8th Guards Rifle Division was some kind of a tip of the 2nd Guards Rifle Corps which took active part in the mousetrap of military forces of the 16th German Army (Monyshuly 1990, p. 16). All tasks which were put before Panfilov’s men were performed. Active actions of Panfilov’s men played a big role in weakening of the German

divisions near Staraya Russa. In this area, the Wehrmacht refused offensive warfare, and was limited only to defense and its improvement.

The Participation of the Kazakhstan military divisions became an important event in the defense of Leningrad. It is authentically known about the participation of three military forces battling for the city at the first stage: the 310th, 314th and 316th Rifle Divisions which were a part of the 52nd Separate Army organizing defense on the southern approaches to Leningrad, near Zamoshye.

The 310th Rifle Division formed in Akmolinsk in July 1941 was gathered quickly. The most part of the division's staff were not attacked by fire. The errors of the Red Army's command and the lack of fighting experience played a negative role in the first fights near Sinyavino and then near Tikhvin. Taking into account the replacements made from poorly trained, nailed up together march troops which came to division's regiments, the Akmola Division existed till December, 1941. By January 1, 1942, there were 250 people in the division who were brought together in two rifle companies. Soldiers from other divisions, which were a part of the Volkhov front, also came to the Kazakhstan Division. By the time of the occupation of so-called Kirishi bridgehead, there were almost no native inhabitants of Akmolinsk and other regions of Kazakhstan in the 310th Rifle Division (Belan, 1995, p. 116).

However, the role of the 310th Rifle Division in September fights at the Mga-Sinyavino projection was essential. In spite of the fact that the task of breaking the Siege of Leningrad was not carried out owing to gross blunders of the Red Army's command, the other task was carried out successfully, namely, the enemy weakened the strike against Leningrad and directed the released units against the coming units of the Kazakhstan Rifle Division and military forces coming on adjacent flanks.

The front near Leningrad was stabilized, having created areas which drew great attention of the command of two warring parties. First of all, it was the fight for the Kirishi bridgehead created by the fascist army. It was for this bridgehead that the 310th Rifle Division conducted battles for a long period from 1942 to 1943. Only in 1944 when the Red Army launched an offensive to break the Siege of Leningrad, the 310th Rifle Division could beat the enemy and significantly moved the front on which it was. For the successful performance of the Red Army's command's tasks, the 310th Rifle Division received the honorable name "Novgorodskaya".

Together with the other military forces of the Red Army, the 310th Rifle Division took part in the defeat of the Finnish Army on the Karelian Isthmus in the summer of 1944. The active actions of units of the 310th Rifle Division made an essential contribution to the defeat of the Finnish Army and to its exit from war.

The 314th Rifle Division formed in Petropavlovsk took part in the defeat of the enemy near Leningrad. However, Petropavlovsk citizens from September 1941 to June 1942 constrained the onslaught of the Finnish Army, which threatened the city from the North, not allowing connection of Finns with the fascist army.

The Mga-Sinyavino bridgehead, which the military forces of the Red Army tried to occupy since September 1941, became the important region of life of Leningrad. For this area bloody fights were held, which turned into one of the largest battles of the Great Patriotic War – the 3rd Sinyavino Offensive. At the final stage of the battle, the divisions of the 314th Petropavlovsk Rifle Division also took part in it. In three days of fights, from September 28 to September 30, 1942, the North Kazakhstan Division lost one fourth of staff. The staff of the division carried out the main task: to lift the blockade of the surrounded troops of the Red Army to the west of the small Chernaya River.

The 314th Rifle Division, which was entrusted for carrying out by the Red Army's high command, accomplished honorably all tasks putting notable losses to the enemy.

Under Gontovy Sticky, near Kingisepp, near Vyborg, that is, in those areas where the units of the 314th Rifle Division appeared, the enemy sustained notable losses. The awards became the result of successful performance of the tasks. The division received the honorable name “Kingisepp” and was awarded the Order of Kutuzov.

In general, the total number of Kazakhstan citizens who were at war near Leningrad reached 59,224 persons.

From this, it is necessary to draw the conclusion that the two fraternal peoples provided substantial assistance in the defense of the city against the capture by fascist troops. The death for Leningrad of thousands of soldiers and officers, natives of two sister republics, was not in vain. The city stood out and became the symbol of force and inviolability of friendship of the people living in the territory of the USSR (Kusainov 2014).

The important role in Leningrad firmness was played by the activity of the rear area of the two sister republics. Tens of tons of food sent to Leningrad during all the period of blockade rendered an important role in the life of Leningrad residents. Tens of thousands of tons, hundreds of cars with products prevented the city from dying of hunger. It allowed adding additional food for workers who exceeded performance working standards in besieged Leningrad. It consisted of 50 grams of meat or fish, 50 grams of grain, 10 grams of fats and 100 grams of bread. The supplement into food ration of products exerted a great influence on the activity of Leningrad residents as hunger began to be felt less and less. By the end of 1942, additional food was received by 1 million people.

Difficult, but very important work was done by Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan in respect of the accommodation of the evacuated citizens. Thousands of evacuated Leningrad residents received housing spaces; many of them were employed. It should be noted that although Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan experienced difficulties in accommodation, the difficulties were overcome by joint efforts.

The financial and food aid rendered by Kazakhstan also had great value. Both Kazakhstan in general and its certain areas did a lot for acceptance, accommodation and further life of the evacuated blockade survivors. Many citizens of the Kazakh SSR transferred the earned money for buying products and objects necessary for life of Leningrad residents.

The assistance of the fraternal peoples of Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan to guerrillas, acting in the back of the German Army Group North, was also important for success. Articles of uniform, things and footwear were sent on request of the guerrilla crews.

The dialogue between guerrillas, manpower and working people of Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan is the indicator of the unification of the rear area and front. The national support from every quarter of the USSR allowed the city to stand out, despite heavy fighting, gunfire and bombings.

Thus, the workers of the two republics made an essential contribution to the defense of the important strategic city of Leningrad and the general Great Victory.

It is also necessary to note the activity of search groups which made an essential contribution to studying the Great Patriotic War.

The search groups play an important role in studying the Great Patriotic War. Thanks to their activity, the details of battles, which took place on the fields of the Great Patriotic War, were specified. In this thesis, the author used the results of the work of the search groups "Memorial Zone" and "Maidan of Zhola" which carried out search works around the Sinyavino Heights.

RESULTS

As a result of the comprehensive assistance to besieged Leningrad by Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, the city resisted. It should be noted that the help consisted not only in transfers of food; the two republics also accepted citizens of Leningrad who were evacuated in the hard days of the blockade. Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan on an equal basis with other allied countries assisted the city, despite the difficult situation in which these two countries were in the days of the Great Patriotic War.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it should be noted that this research is only an attempt to study the subject of the contribution of Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan citizens in the defense of Leningrad and the comprehensive assistance of the two republics to the blockaded city. It is connected with the fact that there is no access to the central archives which contain the main materials. The most part of the documents concerning fighting of many divisions including the 310th and 314th Rifle Divisions are still top-secret. Only a small part of documents is available to researchers. However, despite the

scarcity of sources, the researchers can draw certain conclusions in studying some questions of the Great Patriotic War.

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