



BRAIN

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WAVE

Siege of Leningrad

8 September 1941 – 27 January 1944

(2 years, 4 months, 2 weeks and 5 days)

872 days



Hello dear friends!

Blockade... What do you feel when you hear this word? What images occur in your mind? Blockade concerned many people, families far beyond Leningrad. A lot of people were evacuated far inland. It happened that one of such special trains arrived at a place where my mother lived who was only 10 at that time. She had five siblings of different ages. A woman with two daughters, aged 8 and 10 were placed at my Granny's. Nobody complained that they had nothing to eat or wear but they all worked together and tried to encourage each other. When the siege was lifted they returned to Leningrad.

I am sure your grandparents have their own stories about the blockade. How long ago did you listen to them, watched photos?

Zinfira Madiyarovna
Gilmanova, a teacher of English

Leningrad Blockade



The capture of Leningrad was one of three strategic goals in the German Operation Barbarossa and the main target of Army Group North. The strategy was motivated by Leningrad's political status as the former capital of Russia and the symbolic capital of the Russian Revolution, its military importance as a main base of the Soviet Baltic Fleet and its industrial strength, housing numerous arms factories.

The Germans planned on food being their chief

weapon against the citizens; German scientists had calculated that the city would reach starvation after only a small number of weeks.

The entire civilian population of Leningrad was informed of the danger and over a million citizens were mobilised for the construction of fortifications.

A total of 190 km of timber barricades, 635 km (395 mi) of wire entanglements, 700 km of anti-tank ditches, 5,000 earth-and-timber emplacements and reinforced concrete weapon emplacements and 25,000 km of open trenches were constructed or excavated by civilians. Even the guns from the cruiser Aurora were moved inland to the Pulkovo Heights to the south of Leningrad.

The defensive operation to protect the 1,400,000 civilian evacuees was part of the Leningrad counter-siege operations under the command of Andrei Zhdanov, Kliment Voroshilov, and Aleksei Kuznetsov.

Artillery bombardment of Leningrad began in August 1941, increasing in intensity during 1942 with the arrival of new equipment. It was stepped up further during 1943, when several times as many shells and bombs were used as in the year before. Torpedoes were often used for night bombings by the Luftwaffe.

German shelling and bombing killed 5,723 and wounded 20,507 civilians in Leningrad during the siege.





Tanya Savicheva

Born on January 23, 1930, she was the youngest child in the family of baker Nikolay Rodionovich Savichev and seamstress Mariya Ignatievna Savicheva. Her father died when Tanya was six, leaving Mariya Savicheva with five children—three girls, Tanya, Zhenya (Eugenia) and Nina and two boys, Mikhail and Leka (Leonid).

The family planned to spend the summer of 1941 in the countryside, but the war disrupted their plans. All of them, except Mikhail (Misha), who had already left, decided to stay in Leningrad. Each of them worked to support the army: Mariya Ignatievna sewed uniforms, Leka worked as a planner at the Admiralty Plant, Zhenya worked at the munitions factory, Nina worked at the construction of city defences, and Uncle Vasya and Uncle Lesha served in the anti-aircraft defence. Tanya, then 11 years old, dug trenches and put out firebombs.

One day Nina went to work and never came back; she was sent to Lake Ladoga and then urgently evacuated. The family was unaware of this and thought she had died.

After a few days in memory of Nina, Mariya Ignatievna gave to Tanya a small notebook that belonged to her sister and that would later become Tanya's diary.

In August 1942, Tanya was one of the 140 children who were rescued from Leningrad and brought to the village of Krasny Bor. All of them survived, except Tanya. In May 1944, Tanya was sent to a hospital in Shatki, where she died a month later, on July 1, of intestinal tuberculosis.

The diary of Tanya Savicheva is now displayed at the Museum of Leningrad History and a copy is displayed at the Piskaryovskoye Memorial Cemetery.

Contents of the diary

Zhenya died on Dec. 28th at 12:00 P.M. 1941

Grandma died on Jan. 25th 3:00 P.M. 1942

Leka died on March 5th at 5:00 A.M. 1942

Uncle Vasya died on Apr. 13th at 2:00 after midnight 1942

Uncle Lesha on May 10th at 4:00 P.M. 1942

Mother on May 13th at 7:30 A.M. 1942

Savichevs died.

Everyone died.

Only Tanya is left...

Tanya and her diary have become an iconic image of the victims of the siege of Leningrad in the postwar Soviet Union. In May 1972, a memorial was constructed in her honor in Shatki, which was later expanded to a memorial complex.

2127 Tanya, a minor planet discovered in 1971 by Soviet astronomer Lyudmila Chernykh, is named in her honour.

My family during the Leningrad blockade



My mom's parents were little kids in Leningrad during the siege that took place from September 1941 till January 1944. When the war started, my grandma was 3.5 years old, and my grandpa was 5.5 years old. At the age of 5 my grandma lost her both parents: her father was killed fighting the Germans, and her mother died of starvation and diseases in Leningrad. She was adopted by her aunt Katya, who worked as a nurse at a hospital and had her own son of 2 years old. Grandaunt Katya was helped with the kids by a baby sitter, named Hilda. During those tough times people helped each other and didn't expect anything in return. Since then Hilda has become part of our family.

I want to tell you a story about my grandpa Sam. In winter 1943, when he was 7, his mother was very sick and dying in the besieged city. In order to heal her, special medicine (black currant extract) was needed, but there was no money to pay for it. Thanks to her neighbours who donated their jewelry my Grandpa and his 9-year old friend crossed the whole town on foot to bring the medicine and save the life of his Mother. On January 27th 1944 the blockade was lifted, and this day is one of the most celebrated and important holidays for all the people who survived the hardships of that ordeal.

Kogan Andrey, 9A

Symphony No. 7 (Shostakovich)



Dmitri Shostakovich's Symphony No. 7 in C major, Op. 60 dedicated to the city of Leningrad was completed on 27 December 1941. The symphony is Shostakovich's longest, and one of the longest in the repertoire, with performances taking approximately one hour and fifteen minutes. In its time, the symphony was extremely popular in both Russia and the West as a symbol of resistance and defiance to Nazi totalitarianism and militarism. Still today it is regarded as the major musical testament of the 25 million Soviet citizens who lost their lives in World War II due to the German invasion. It is played at the Leningrad Cemetery where half a million victims of the 900-day Siege of Leningrad are buried.

To Leningrad the Hero City Obelisk

To Leningrad the Hero City Obelisk is located in Vosstaniya Square in Saint Petersburg, Russia, which was known as Leningrad from 1924 to 1991. It was installed on Victory Day of May 1985 to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the Red Army's victory in the German-Soviet War.

Installing the obelisk required high skill builders and fitters. Grey granite resembling the colour of soldier's overcoat was chosen to make to body of the monument.

Leningrad was awarded the title Hero City in 1945, being the first city to receive that distinction.

The rock was obtained from a quarry of the Vozrozhdenie deposit near the town of Vyborg. On 6 November 1983, a monolith weighing 2200 tonnes was separated from the source rock with the help of a controlled explosion. The finishing touches and polishing of the granite were done on the site. In early April 1985, the Obelisk crowned with the "Gold Star" was installed onto its pedestal.

The total mass of the monument with the base is 750 tonnes.



Do you know?

Reports of cannibalism appeared in the winter of 1941–1942, after all birds, rats, and pets had been eaten by survivors. Hungry gangs attacked and ate people. Leningrad police even formed a special unit to combat cannibalism. This unit resulted in 260 Leningraders being found guilty of and put in prison for the crime of cannibalism.

The task was to save the masterpieces of architecture and sculpture. The Bronze Horseman,

Lenin's monument in front of the Finland Station were protected with sandbags and a thick layer of earth; Klodt's horses were taken down from Anichkov Bridge; the Admiralty spire draped in special protective cases; the golden spire of St Peter and Paul's Cathedral in the Peter-and-Paul Fortress and the dome of St Isaac's Cathedral were painted for camouflage; a camouflage net was stretched over the Smolny, and the facades of the principal buildings merged with the bombs on the surrounding landscape. These efforts were not wasted, and practically all the unique works of art were preserved.



The Nazis dropped thousands of bombs on the streets of Leningrad. Bombs and shells hit the Admiralty, the Winter Palace, Mikhailovsky Castle and other precious edifices.

Road of Life



The Road of Life was the ice road winter transport route across the frozen Lake Ladoga, which provided the only access to the besieged city of Leningrad while the perimeter in the siege was maintained by the German Army Group North and the Finnish Defence Forces.

During the winter of 1941–42 the ice corridor of the Road of Life operated for 152 days, until 24 April. About 514,000

city inhabitants, 35,000 wounded soldiers, industrial equipment from 86 plants and factories, and also some art and museum collections were evacuated from Leningrad during the first winter of the blockade. While the road was protected by anti-aircraft artillery on the ice and fighter planes in the air, truck convoys were constantly attacked by German artillery and airplanes, making travel dangerous.

The Road of Life was used to transport the following supplies:

- November 1941: approximately 1,500 tons of food (primarily flour)
- January 1942: approximately 52,000 tons of various supplies (of which ~42,000 tons were food)
- February 1942: approximately 86,000 tons of various supplies (of which ~67,000 tons were food)
- March 1942: approximately 113,000 tons of various supplies (of which ~87,000 tons were food)
- April 1942: approximately 87,000 tons of various supplies (of which ~57,000 tons were food)

In total the ice road was used to ship more than 360,000 tons of goods, mostly rations and fodder, into Leningrad.



Piskaryovskoye Memorial Cemetery

is located on the Avenue of the Unvanquished, dedicated mostly to the victims of the Siege of Leningrad. It was opened on May 9, 1960.

The words of poet **Olga Berggolts** are carved on a granite wall located behind



this monument:

***Here lie Leningraders
Here are citydwellers - men,
women, and children
And next to them, Red Army
soldiers.
They defended you, Leningrad,
The cradle of the Revolution
With all their lives.
We cannot list their noble
names here,
There are so many of them
under the eternal protection of
granite.
But know this, those who
regard these stones:
No one is forgotten, nothing
is forgotten.***