

MAGAZINE

# RAZVEDCHIK

We search for knowledge not for glory's sake — But to learn the truth for the good of our State!

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V. A. NIKONOV: "WE NEED TO BUILD A NEW WORLD WITHOUT LOOKING BACK TO THE WEST"

INTELLIGENCE SERVICE DURING THE WAR. FEMALE INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS

GENERAL DE GAULLE AND THE SOVIET INTELLIGENCE. DECLASSIFIED ARCHIVES



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# Foreign intelligence in the Great Patriotic war

On May 9, 2025, Russia, together with its friends and partners, will celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great Victory. The significance of this holiday is hard to overestimate. This is our glory and pride, the history of the country and each family, an integral element of the cultural code, a part of the soul that was passed on to us by fathers and mothers, grandfathers and great-grandfathers in memory of the immortal feat of the generation of victors.

We cherish this memory and will do everything to ensure that the names of the real Heroes, who at the cost of incredible sacrifices saved the world from Nazism, defended the Fatherland and gave a peaceful life to future generations, should never be forgotten. Paying tribute to them, the editorial board of the magazine has prepared a series of publications that will be posted throughout the year in a separate section, "Intelligence Service in War". The materials are dedicated to intelligence officers who participated in the Great Patriotic War, front-line soldiers and partisans, employees of foreign residencies and the central apparatus, as well as secret assistants of foreign intelligence during the war years, who made an invaluable contribution to the common cause.

In the first, March issue of the new year, we decided to tell about female intelligence officers — combat friends and reliable comrades, for whom selfless service to the Motherland, protection of its interests were the meaning of their whole life, and often more valuable than life. In this issue there is also an article about the head of foreign intelligence in 1939–1946, Lieutenant General Pavel Mikhailovich Fitin, specifically about his childhood and youth — the period when his organizational skills and leadership qualities were formed, which allowed him to occupy such a high post and successfully build intelligence work in wartime.

As an introduction to these articles, we would like to briefly recall the most significant operations carried out by Soviet intelligence officers in the late 1930s — mid-1940s, and the specific contribution that the foreign intelligence made to achieving the long-awaited Victory. We hope that even a reader who is far from this topic will be interested to know what information was received in Moscow from foreign residencies before and during the war, as well as how the information obtained affected the course of military operations.



## An alarming situation requiring increased attention from the foreign intelligence began to develop around our Motherland long before the war began.

Let's start with the fact that an alarming situation requiring increased attention from the foreign intelligence began to develop around our Motherland long before the war began. Since the mid-1930s, after the establishment of the Nazi dictatorship in Germany, the Center received secret materials from our intelligence officers about Hitler's plans to gain dominance in Europe, including the territories of the Soviet Union, about Western countries flirting with him and pushing his aggressive aspirations to the East. Thus, the New York residency reported on President Roosevelt's position that the United States would support the USSR in a possible war with Germany only if *"Hitler's actions were aggressive and unprovoked"*. Intelligence also reported on the duplicity of England and France, which in the late 1930s were pursuing a course of appeasing the Fuhrer.

Counteroffensive of the Red Army units



As for the direct attack on the Soviet Union, there was advance information about this too. The Barbarossa plan was approved by Hitler in December 1940, and already in March 1941 its main provisions, obtained by the London residency, were studied in Moscow. The USSR leadership, in particular, was informed about the composition of the German groups, the directions of the main attacks and the approximate dates of the beginning of the aggression. Intelligence reported that the Germans would begin the war with the Soviet Union before victory over England, and that *"there will be no invasion of the British Isles"*.

The final date and time — June 22, 3 a. m. (Berlin time) — were determined by the Hitlerite command only on June 10, that is, less than two weeks before the start of the operation. The very next day, the residency in Helsinki reported this to the Center, and on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, confirmations came from the Rome and Berlin stations. In total, from January to June 1941, more than 100 documents were sent to Stalin, from which it followed that war was on the threshold and it was necessary to take urgent measures to strengthen defense capability.

With the onset of the aggression, the task of identifying the military-political plans of Germany and its allies became even more urgent. Under the leadership of P.M. Fitin, it was possible to reconfigure and activate the work of legal and illegal residencies, as well as sub-residencies and agent groups in all countries that were significant in terms of obtaining the required information. By 1944, about 200 Soviet illegal intelligence agents were operating abroad, part of them on the territory of Germany itself. The information they obtained was in great demand.

Thus, in the summer of 1941, the intelligence reported that the Wehrmacht command was planning to defeat the Red Army within two to three months and was not prepared to conduct large-scale offensive operations before winter. In October of the same year, in the most difficult conditions of the battles near Moscow, it reported on German-Japanese negotiations, following which the Germans came to the conclusion that *"this year Japan*

*will not set out against Russia"*. This information made it possible to timely transfer several rifle and tank divisions from the Far East, which played a decisive role in the defense of the capital. Later, the Tokyo residency informed about Tokyo's final rejection of plans to attack the USSR, which gave the Red Army the opportunity to concentrate its efforts on the German front.

Throughout the war, a powerful flow of valuable information kept coming from the London residency from members of the legendary "Cambridge Five", who had access to the secrets of the Foreign Ministry, special services and other British government agencies. Over four years, about 20 thousand materials came from London, of which almost 90% were documentary.

For example, on May 7, 1943, the USSR State Defense Committee received an urgent report from John Cairncross and Kim Philby about the Wehrmacht's preparations for an offensive operation in the Kursk region. Not only the offensive plan was reported — the timing, deployment of troops, directions of attacks, but also the tactical and technical characteristics of new German tanks and aircraft. On the eve of the Battle of Kursk, our command wisely used the data received. The outcome of the battle is known.

In addition to obtaining military and political information, intelligence solved the problems of organizing sabotage and subversive work in the enemy's rear and providing assistance to the partisan movement. In the autumn of 1941, the 4<sup>th</sup> Directorate was formed within the NKVD structure, headed by the experienced illegal intelligence officer Pavel Anatolyevich Sudoplatov. The reconnaissance and sabotage detachments trained by him played a significant role in supporting the operations of the Red Army: they obtained information about the location, composition and movements of enemy troops, carried out sabotage on the railway, bridges, warehouses, and in the locations of German units. The damage from their actions was enormous; by the end of the war, the enemy's losses numbered in the hundreds of thousands of people.



Thus, in a report on the results of the combat activities of the "Pobediteli" ("The Victorious") detachment, its commander, Hero of the Soviet Union Dmitry Nikolaevich Medvedev, indicated that in less than two years on the territory of occupied Ukraine *"...about 120 operations were carried out, more than 12 thousand Nazis and their accomplices were eliminated, 81 trains with manpower, weapons and fuel were derailed"*. The weapons captured during the raids were used to equip more than 10 new partisan detachments.

It should be noted that during the war, about six thousand such partisan detachments fought in the German rear. The Motherland highly appreciated the merits of their brave leaders and most active members, among whom were many intelligence officers. In addition to the aforementioned D.N. Medvedev, the high title of Hero of the Soviet Union was awarded to S.A. Vaupshasov, K.P. Orlovsky and A.M. Rabtsevich. And to I.D. Kudrya,

Head of the Soviet foreign intelligence P.M. Fitin (left) and head of the 4<sup>th</sup> (sabotage) Directorate of NKVD P.A. Sudoplatov

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D. N. Medvedev with group commanders. Volyn outskirts. November 1943

N.I. Kuznetsov, V.A. Lyagin, V.A. Molodtsov and N.A. Prokopyuk — posthumously. We will tell about their exploits in detail in one of the following issues.

In addition, intelligence officers conducted successful radio games, which also contributed to the Victory's approach. For example, during one of the largest such games, "Monastery", the enemy was given strategic disinformation. Trusting it, the Germans did not dare to transfer reserves from the northwest to the south in the winter of 1942, thereby facilitating the Soviet troops' task of defeating Paulus' army at Stalingrad.

At the same time, intelligence worked to identify threats emanating from the territory of neutral countries. As is well known, the "neutrality" of most Europeans was conditional at

that time. For example, residencies reported that almost all the iron ore mined in Sweden went to German military factories, and Spain and Portugal served as transit points for the supply of strategic raw materials to Germany from all over the world. Foreign intelligence was also tasked with cutting off those supply channels. Among the most successful in this direction was the combat group operating in Argentina, led by Iosif Romualdovich Grigulevich, which included up to 80 people. They were responsible for dozens of arson attacks on port warehouses and the sinking of cargo ships transporting food, ammonium nitrate (an important component of explosives) and other strategic raw materials to the Third Reich, which made it possible to practically paralyze such supplies from Latin America (*for more details, see "Razvedchik" No. 2 (3), 2023*).

Another major success of intelligence was the disruption of Hitler's plans to turn Iran into an anti-Soviet bridgehead. Having received advance information that the Abwehr was preparing a coup in that country, Moscow, together with its allies, brought troops there in August 1941. The threat from the south to the Baku oil fields, as well as sabotage on the supply routes for strategic goods under Lend-Lease, were cut short. It should be noted that during the war, over 30% of Western weapons and food were delivered to the USSR through Iran with its ice-free Persian Gulf.

By mid-1942, German intelligence activity in the region had been limited to such an extent that Tehran was chosen as the venue for the first personal meeting of the leaders of the countries that were members of the anti-Hitler coalition. At the same time, our intelligence officers and their young assistants, including the future illegal intelligence officer and Hero of the Soviet Union Gevorg Andreevich Vartanyan, managed to prevent the German intelligence services from implementing Operation Long Jump to assassinate Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill (*for more details, see "Razvedchik" No. 1 (6), 2024*).

At the final stage of the war, the information obtained by the intelligence helped the Soviet leadership to determine the optimal

**Intelligence officers conducted successful radio games, which also contributed to the Victory's approach.**



Transcoded German military radio operators at work

course concerning countries liberated from Nazi control such as Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Finland and Czechoslovakia, to assist in the formation of the new statehood of Yugoslavia, and to facilitate solving problems on the path to the creation of an independent and self-sufficient Poland.

In 1944–1945, intelligence officers also solved such a vital task as identifying secret contacts between Western allies and representatives of the Reich. Seeing how the German military machine was collapsing on the Eastern Front and fearing an excessive increase in the influence of the USSR in post-war Europe, London and Washington, behind Moscow's back, entered into contacts with Nazi criminals who were seeking to avoid the complete defeat of Germany by concluding a separate peace with England and the USA. It was proposed, in particular, to cease resistance in the West and transfer the free units to the East to continue the war with the Soviet Union in order to force it to accept unfavorable peace terms.

Foreign intelligence reported all such contacts to Moscow. Thus, in early 1945, it reported on a meeting in Switzerland between emissaries of Goering and Himmler and representatives of American and British intelligence services, which allowed Stalin to catch Churchill and Roosevelt in insincerity.

The so-called allies were forced to disavow negotiations with the Nazis, but they never completely stopped the "separate games".

In general, it would not be an exaggeration to say that from the first to the last day of the war, intelligence officers were not only at the front lines, but in the thick of things. They obtained such valuable information that sometimes the most important strategic decisions

Red Army units' offensive near Kursk. August 1943





From the first to the last day of the war, intelligence officers were not only at the front lines, but in the thick of things. They obtained such valuable information that sometimes the most important strategic decisions depended on it.

depended on it. The symbol of their involvement can perhaps be considered the famous photograph taken on May 8, 1945 in Potsdam. It shows Soviet intelligence officer Alexander Mikhailovich Korotkov standing behind Field Marshal Keitel, who is signing the German Instrument of Surrender, as if monitoring that everything should be carried through. We will tell the story of his appearance in this photograph in one of the following issues.

W. Keitel signs the German Instrument of Surrender (intelligence officer A.M. Korotkov stands left in the background)



the unification of the Western allies with a 100,000-strong corps of German prisoners of war, who were supposed to be re-armed and sent against the Soviet troops together with combat-ready units from Poland, Hungary and Romania. The goal was to push the Red Army out of Central Europe and, if possible, to occupy the western territories of the USSR up to the Arkhangelsk-Stalingrad line, as had been outlined by Hitler's "Barbarossa" plan.

The planning was completed on May 22, and military operations were to begin with a surprise attack on July 1, 1945. However, the Soviet troops, warned by the intelligence, regrouped, preparing for defense, and the operation had to be cancelled. Nevertheless, "Unthinkable" went down in history as the first attempt at direct armed aggression by the West against our country. All subsequent plans would be developed with the prospect of using nuclear weapons.

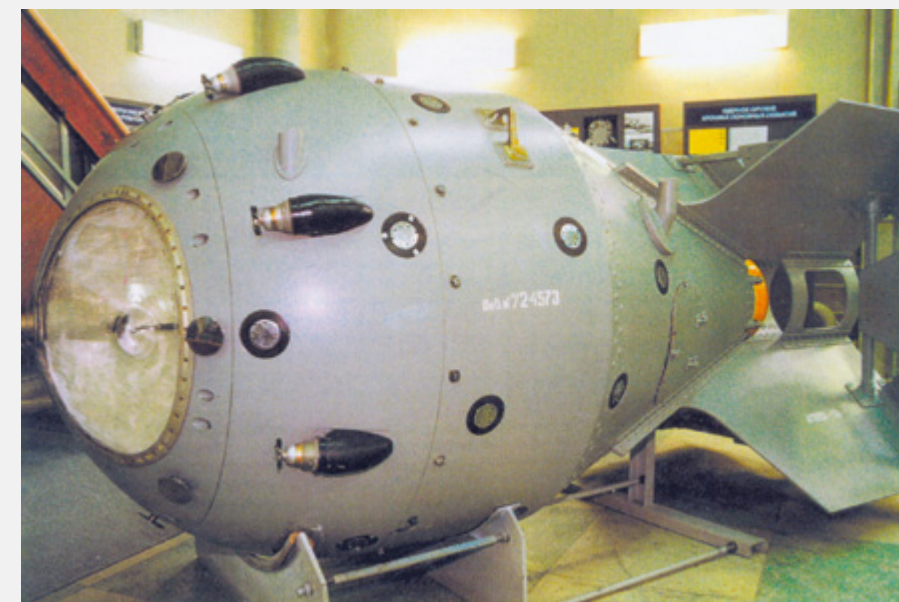
On the issue of atomic weapons. Few people know that intelligence played a major role in our country quickly acquiring a nuclear shield. The first secret documents on this matter were obtained before the war, and by 1942 their volume and significance allowed the People's Commissar of Internal Affairs Lavrenty Beria to report the problem to Stalin, who, despite the dire situation at the front, decided to begin work on an atomic project in the USSR. Later, as part of Operation Enormous developed by P.M. Fitin, intelligence managed to penetrate the holy of holies of the American nuclear program — to "hack" the impregnable Manhattan Project, and uniquely valuable information began to flow into the Center, including the results of scientific research and even samples of materials and equipment (see *"Razvedchik" No. 1(2), 2023*).

At the same time, US plans to carry out preventive nuclear strikes against the Soviet Union were reported. The first of these, codenamed "Totality", was ready by the end of 1945, followed by "Pincher" (1946), "Sizzle" (1948), "Dropshot" (1949) and many others, differing only in the increasing number of targets. They had one thing in common — the concept of a non-response attack due to the USSR's lack of weapons of comparable power. Imagine the

West's surprise when, on August 29, 1949, a successful test of a Soviet atomic bomb took place at the Semipalatinsk test site.

There is no doubt that the main contribution to the creation of the domestic nuclear shield belongs to Soviet scientists and engineers, who solved the most complex scientific problems and developed all the necessary technologies. But thanks to intelligence information, it was possible to significantly reduce material costs and eliminate dead-end research areas, which produced the main effect: a reduction, according to the most conservative estimates, in the time frame for creating a domestic atomic bomb by five to six years. Presenting awards to the project participants, Stalin noted: *"If we had been late with the atomic bomb twelve to eighteen months, then we probably would have 'experienced' it on ourselves"*.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, Vyacheslav Molotov, who was well acquainted with all aspects of the Soviet atomic project and knew how much effort and money the country had managed to save, gave the following assessment: *"... with its work in re-*



*vealing atomic secrets, foreign intelligence has paid for not only its entire past, but also its future"*.

The first Soviet nuclear bomb. RDS-1

Of course, the intelligence never "rested on its laurels" and with the end of the war continued to obtain valuable information, including about new aggressive plans against our Motherland, and to help strengthen its sovereignty and security.

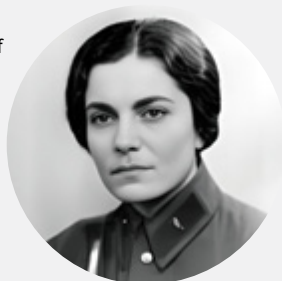
Today, in the midst of the Special Military Operation, intelligence officers are once again on the front lines. Just like their grandfathers and great-grandfathers 80 years ago, they give all their strength, and sometimes even their lives, for the sake of future generations. We have no doubt that these new feats will also become public knowledge over time. In the meantime, let's wish a speedy Victory for us all. Our Victory! 🇷🇺

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**1**  
January  
1900

Yelizaveta Yulievna Zarubina, a deep cover intelligence officer, was born in the village of Rzhaventsy, Khotyn district, Chernovtsi region, Bessarabian province. She graduated from the University of Vienna, specializing as a translator, spoke German, French, English and other languages. She was an active participant in the revolutionary movement, a member of the Communist Party of Austria. Since 1924 she worked at the Soviet embassy in Vienna, in 1927 she married V.M. Zarubin, a foreign intelligence officer. For more than 20 years she was abroad with her husband, including the United States, where she worked on the atomic project. She was awarded the Order of the Red Star and the Order of the Patriotic War II class, the medal "For the Victory over Germany in the Great Patriotic War 1941–1945", and other awards.



**6**  
January  
2000

The Prize of the Foreign Intelligence Service of the Russian Federation in Literature and Art was established to award authors and creative teams for the creation of works of art dedicated to the national foreign intelligence. It is awarded annually in a solemn atmosphere. Since 2019 it has been named after the first director of the Foreign Intelligence Service of the Russian Federation, Academician Yevgeny Maksimovich Primakov. Laureates are awarded a diploma, a breastplate (in the photo) and a cash reward.

**18**  
January  
1895

Kirill Prokofievich Orlovsky, an intelligence officer and saboteur, was born in the village of Myshkovichi, Mogilev province. In the Cheka since 1918. He commanded partisan detachments in Western Belarus occupied by the Poles till 1925. In 1936–1937, he carried out missions in Spain for Foreign Intelligence. With the beginning of the Great Patriotic War, he went to the front and headed a large special-purpose partisan detachment "Falcons" ("Sokoly"). In February 1943, he was seriously wounded in both arms during a special operation, but fulfilled the task, for which he was awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. In 1944 he retired for health reasons. In his native village he was elected chairman of the collective farm (kolkhoz), which under his leadership became one of the best in the USSR. In 1958 he became a Hero of Socialist Labor for outstanding labor achievements.

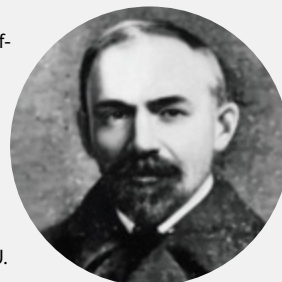


**25**  
January  
1900

Grigory Sergeyevich Syroyezhkin was born in the village of Volkovo, Balashovsky district, Saratov province. In 1918 he voluntarily joined the Red Army and participated in battles on the Southern Front. In 1921 he was transferred to work in the counter-intelligence department of the Cheka. He was an active participant in operations "Trust" and "Syndicate-2", he was engaged in the liquidation of spy groups and terrorist organizations, and repeatedly traveled abroad to carry out operational activities. He fought banditry in Chechnya, Yakutia, Buryatia, and Mongolia. In 1937 he was sent to Spain as a coordinator of special-purpose units, personally conducting risky operations. Bearer of the Order of Lenin and the Red Banner.

**12**  
February  
1870

Aleksey Frolovich Filippov, a representative of the first generation of Soviet intelligence officers, was born in Mogilev. He graduated from the Faculty of Law of Moscow University, then took an interest in journalism. He worked in a number of publishing houses, and later launched his own periodicals, including the magazine "Russian Review" ("Russkoye Obozreniye") and the newspaper "Money" ("Dengi"). From 1912 he worked in St. Petersburg in a banking house, and supported the Bolshevik revolution. In 1918, F.E. Dzerzhinsky personally recruited him to work as a secret agent of the Cheka (pseudonym "Arsky"), repeatedly sending him to Finland under the guise of a journalist to collect information about the plans of the Finnish authorities regarding the Soviet Russia. The success of his mission marked the beginning of this line of intelligence activity abroad in the Cheka-OGPU.



**17**  
February  
1920

Galina Ivanovna Fedorova (née Markina), an illegal intelligence officer, was born in Saratov. In the state security services since 1939. She was responsible for training personnel for work behind enemy lines under the 4<sup>th</sup> Directorate of the NKVD during the Great Patriotic War. In 1946 she went abroad together with her husband M.V. Fedorov, a deep cover intelligence officer, where she worked effectively for a long time in special conditions. She participated in extraction of documentary materials with the highest security classification, including information about plans for a nuclear attack on the USSR, conducted operations to communicate with valuable agents. Later she repeatedly traveled abroad to solve specific intelligence tasks. She was awarded the Order of the Patriotic War and the Order of the Red Star and many medals.

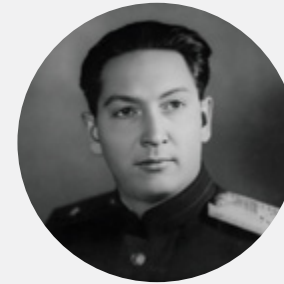
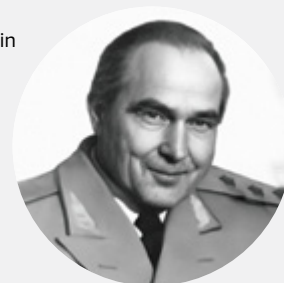


**19**  
February  
1920

Vadim Vitoldovich Kuchin, a prominent Soviet intelligence officer, was born in the Orenburg province. In 1941, after graduating from the Moscow Institute of Philosophy, Literature and History, he was enrolled in a special NKVD school, where he mastered the German language perfectly. In 1945–1946 he took part in operational activities related to the signing of German Instrument of Surrender and the Nuremberg Tribunal, and was involved in the preparation of indictment documents. In the 1950s and 1960s, he worked in the office of the KGB representative at the Ministry of State Security of the GDR, handled valuable agents, and carried out complex intelligence operations against FRG. Upon his return, he worked in the Center in senior positions. He was awarded two Orders of the Red Banner, the Order of the Red Star, and other orders and medals, including foreign ones.

**8**  
March  
1925

Yevgeny Izotov Shishkin, Deputy Chief of Foreign Intelligence, Major General, was born in Biysk. He fought in the Great Patriotic War, served in the short-range reconnaissance group of the communications regiment, and celebrated Victory at Königsberg. He graduated from the Military Institute of Foreign Languages in 1949 and worked as a translator in the office of the authorized representative of the High Commissioner in Austria. In 1955 he was recommended to the Foreign Intelligence Service. He was repeatedly sent on long-term assignments abroad, and twice as a chief of station. Upon his return, he worked in senior positions; in the 1975–1980s he held the post of Deputy Chief of the First Main Directorate of the KGB of the USSR. He was awarded the Order of the Red Banner, the Order of the Great Patriotic War I class, two Orders of the Red Star, and many medals.

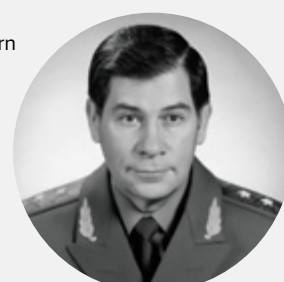


**20**  
March  
1915

Yevgeny Petrovich Pitovranov, chief of foreign intelligence, lieutenant general, was born in Saratov. He graduated from the Moscow Electromechanical Institute of Railway Engineers and the Higher Party School under the Central Committee of the CPSU. In 1938 he was sent to the Gorky Regional Directorate of the NKVD and headed it in 1942. In 1945–1946 — Minister of State Security of Uzbekistan, then — Chief of the Second Main Directorate (counterintelligence) of the MGB of the USSR. From December 1950 to October 1951 — Deputy Minister of State Security, from January to March 1953 he headed the First Main Directorate of the MGB (foreign intelligence), then he was sent to Berlin as an authorized representative of KGB at the Ministry of State Security of the GDR. In 1957–1961, he headed the 4<sup>th</sup> Directorate of the KGB of the USSR, and from 1962 to 1966, the Higher School of the KGB of the USSR. He was awarded the Order of Lenin, the Order of the October Revolution, two Orders of the Red Banner and many other orders and medals.

**24**  
March  
1935

Leonid Vladimirovich Shebarshin, chief of foreign intelligence, lieutenant general, was born in Moscow. He was a graduate of the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO). In 1958–1962 he worked at the Soviet Embassy in Pakistan. In 1962 he was recommended for service in the First Main Directorate (PGU) of the KGB of the USSR. He worked his way up from operative to chief of station, went on three long-term foreign missions, achieved concrete recruiting results. In 1987 he was appointed deputy chief of the PGU, and in 1989 — chief of the PGU. He held this post until August 1991. After retiring, he was engaged in public work and literary activity, he is the author of a number of books on intelligence. He was awarded the Order of the Red Banner, the Order of the Red Star and many medals.





# Awarding the winners of the Prize of SVR of Russia

On January 22, 2025, the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary ceremony of awarding the winners of the Prize of the SVR of Russia in Literature and Art named after Academician E. M. Primakov for the best works about Russian foreign intelligence for 2024 was held at the International Multimedia Press Center of MIA "Rossiya Segodnya" ("Russia Today").

Alexander Vladimirovich Yakovenko, Deputy Director General of MIA "Rossiya Segodnya" addressed the audience with a welcoming speech: *"I have to say that for me foreign intelligence is a big chess game that is played not on one, but simultaneously on many boards. From my point of view, this is one of the main features of the work of the Foreign Intelligence Service. I am very glad to welcome the laureates who have been honored with this wonderful award. They write brightly, beautifully and, of course, with a great interest in everything related to the unique profession of an intelligence officer"*.

Every year, there are more and more contenders for the prize. This time, nine authors of various works — a series of television programs, a documentary film, and three books — received the honorary title of laureate. Following good tradition, the awards were presented to the winners personally by the Director of the Foreign Intelligence Service of Russia, Sergei Yevgenyevich Naryshkin. In his address to the participants of the ceremony, he emphasized: *"This year, very good, talented, and interesting works were submitted for the award. The competition committee faced a difficult task of choosing the winners"*.

## The winners of the Prize of the SVR of Russia for 2024 are:

For the creation of a series of programs on foreign intelligence in the information and analytical program "Postscriptum" — its permanent author, director and host, member of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation **Aleksey Konstantinovich Pushkov**, as well as the author and commentator of the program **Aleksandr Vladimirovich Markov**.

*"Postscriptum" has been on air for 26 years and, despite such a long period, is popular with viewers, including politicians and diplomats. Intelligence is the hidden diplomacy of the invisible front, a glorious part of our country's history. I am very glad that its coverage in my program has found a response from the SVR leadership and the professional community. We intend to continue this series, as we consider it informative, patriotic and important for our viewers, who, as the feedback shows, watch it with great interest"*, — Alexey Pushkov emphasized.

For the creation of the documentary film "The Main Enemy" — the project director and presenter **Arkady Viktorovich Mamontov** and producer **Natalya Alekseyevna Steshina**.

*"The film tells about the hostile activities of the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States of America against the Soviet Union and modern Russia"*, — S.E. Naryshkin said. The film premiered on the TV channel "Russia 24" on June 22, 2024. It shows unique declassified documents, as well as interviews with direct participants in the "spy games", including those convicted in our country of treason.

*"This award is being presented to Arkady Mamontov and me in the year of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great Victory. This is very important for me. The values for which my grandfather, Private Ivan Nikolaev, died have not been forgotten. Today, we also protect the interests of the Motherland in the various areas entrusted to us. Intelligence officers always work at the limit of their capabilities. We all need to work the same way"*, — Natalya Steshina said.





For the creation of the book "Kim Philby and the Cambridge Five. The main documents and evidence" — its author, historian of the special services Lavrentiev Andrey Borisovich and editor-compiler Dolmatov Vladimir Petrovich.



This publication, dedicated to the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of Kim Philby's work for Soviet foreign intelligence, includes unique photographs from the intelligence officer's personal archive, as well as a great amount of declassified documents, including copies of cipher reports from Kim Philby and his colleagues.

For the creation of the book "Operation "Enormous"" — its authors Sergey Anatolyevich Guskov, head of the Press Bureau of the Foreign Intelligence Service of Russia, and employee of the Foreign Intelligence Service of Russia, Evgeny Borisovich Dolgushin.

*"Probably, many of those sitting in this hall remember that "Enormous" is the name of an outstanding, brilliant operation of the Soviet foreign intelligence to obtain atomic secrets", — noted S.E. Naryshkin. The book reveals many previously unknown pages of the legendary operation, including exclusive documents of domestic intelligence on this subject.*



For the creation of the book "The Exploits of Intelligence Officers. Conversations with Legends" — its author Merkacheva Eva Mikhailovna, columnist of "Moskovsky Komsomolets".



Eva Mikhailovna was lucky to meet many outstanding intelligence officers in person. Not just to meet, but to win over these strong-willed people and tell the reader about their exploits, to explain why it is worth risking not only your well-being, but also your life. The book is supplemented by a selection of rare materials from special archives, which are of great interest to both historians and ordinary readers who are keen on studying the "hidden springs" of past and present events.

At the end of the event, S.E. Naryshkin addressed the laureates with the following words: *"Your work and creative searches are quite necessary for the Foreign Intelligence Service, especially for young officers, whom you motivate to achieve their own successes. Of course, this is also important for our entire country, because the people you write about in books and tell about in films really deserve to be known and remembered by the country".*

### The Prize of the SVR of Russia in Literature and Art

Was established in 2000. Its main goal is to attract the attention of the general public to the best works of fiction about intelligence. Since 2019, the Prize has been named after Academician Yevgeny Maksimovich Primakov, who served as Director of the SVR (1991–1996) and later as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Prime Minister of Russia.







# In a single impulse

Since the beginning of the special military operation, millions of people across Russia have been united by a common idea: "We don't abandon our people!" Employees of the Foreign Intelligence Service of the Russian Federation, as well as other concerned citizens of our country, were ready to volunteer for the front from the first days of the conflict. However, this would have meant leaving the most important tasks at the Center unfulfilled. Therefore, in addition to the multiple intensification of performance at their workplaces, many of our fellow intelligence officers took up volunteering.

Since March 2022, initiative groups have spontaneously emerged in the units of the Foreign Intelligence Service of Russia, which have purchased copters, communication systems, medicines needed at the front, printed devices for drones and small arms on 3D printers, made trench candles, dry showers, and delivered all this to the conflict zone on their own. Their impulse is contagious: people weave camouflage nets at home, take volunteer shifts at hospitals after work, help relatives of the dead and all those who have been held hostages to circumstances — lost their homes, fled from the horrors of war.

Technical specialists of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service work overtime to help the front, refining electronic warfare (EW) equipment purchased with donations from employees of the Service: anti-drone guns, EW backpacks and the like. They joke: *"It's a kind of 'surfing' — we are looking for ways to jam the frequencies used to control and transmit video signals from FPV-drones and we are looking for ways to improve jamming protection at the same time. We test on non-standard frequencies, choose directional antennas"*. They refine imported communication equipment,

purchased and brought into our country using complicated schemes to bypass the Western sanctions. For example, portable radio stations which allow us to ensure the confidentiality of negotiations, so necessary for the coordinated work of combat units.

Over the three years of the special military operation, the Foreign Intelligence Service has collected about 500 million rubles, which have been transformed into real aid: hundreds of copters and anti-drone guns, radio frequency spectrum analyzers and airspace monitoring systems. A significant part of the funds has been allocated as targeted assistance to the families of the dead and seriously wounded employees of the Main Directorate of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation — our comrades-in-arms. This includes funding for high-tech medical interventions, rehabilitation after injuries, providing treatment at health resorts for special forces fighters and their families, and the transfer of unique medical equipment, which few people, apart from the foreign intelligence, can obtain.

The younger generation actively participates in the Service's volunteer activities. Continu-

ing the tradition established during the Great Patriotic War, when letters were written in schools, pioneer groups and kindergartens to the address: "Acting army. To an unknown fighter", children of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service employees, their friends and classmates support the soldiers in the special military operation zone, telling them how important it is for them to have peaceful sky above their heads, and how eagerly they await Victory. Such messages from home, from peaceful life, even from unfamiliar children, their handicrafts and drawings have proved to be a powerful means of moral support for the soldiers, including those "behind the ribbon", some of them became talismans. Over five thousand messages have been sent since the beginning of the special military operation,

In December 2024, three frontline ambulances purchased on the initiative of illegal intelligence officers Artem and Anna Dultsev with their personal savings were handed over to the front. These are the deep cover officers who were arrested in Slovenia in 2022, held in prison for more than a year and a half and who were returned to their homeland last August as a result of a large-scale exchange.

The ceremony of handing over the ambulances was held in Moscow at the Eternal Flame in the Victory Museum on Poklonnaya Hill and, in addition to representatives of the Russian Ministry of Defense, Artem and Anna's children, Daniil and Sofia, took part in it. According to the intelligence officers, their son and daughter study the history of Russia (their new homeland, they are very proud of it) with great interest and pay special attention to the Great Patriotic War.

In conclusion, it should be noted that the transfer of savings for the needs of the front is also a tradition. During the Great Patriotic War, academician Trofim Lysenko, writer Mikhail Sholokhov, poet Vasily Lebedev-Kumach, author of the lyrics to the song "The Sacred War" — the anthem of the generation of victors — did the same with their Stalin Prizes. And we must be their worthy successors. No wonder that thousands of hearts all over the country are burning with the desire to be useful. After all, our cause is just! Victory will be ours! 🇷🇺

"Of course, our family cannot be directly compared to prisoners of war. But I am sure that no one is waiting for Victory as much as the people who have found themselves in captivity. All those long months in prison, when we did not know how long our imprisonment would last, when we were deprived of communication with our relatives and information about the progress of the special military operation, we believed in only one thing: our fighters would definitely win. We immediately decided that upon returning home, we would take part as much as we could and contribute to the common cause".

Artem Dultsev



Video report





# USA, Israel and the new reality in the Middle East

Text: Irina Donovna Zvyagelskaya, Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor, Head of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at IMEMO RAS

**Donald Trump's return to the White House has raised many hopes in the Middle East, given that the last year and a half of Joseph Biden's tenure as US president have been marked by escalating conflicts and serious destabilization, leading many observers to talk about the prospects of a forthcoming full-scale war and its possible spread beyond the region.**

Indeed, the protracted confrontation on several fronts simultaneously — in the Gaza Strip and southern Lebanon, exchanges of blows between Israel and Iran, the de facto involvement of global powers in the conflict (the shelling of Houthi positions by American and British navies) have become signs of an escalation of the relatively familiar clashes into increasingly intense and less controllable ones.

In any case, not all the gloomy predictions have come true. An increasing number of regional states are

interested in stable and predictable development. In particular, the Arab monarchies of the Persian Gulf and Egypt have focused on mediation rather than military efforts to support the Palestinians. And Trump's new rise to power is a long-awaited opportunity for them to find a solution to a number of issues related to security and support for their own economies.

In turn, the Israeli leadership, despite the confidence that the new administration in Washington will take into account all of Tel Aviv's

military-strategic and economic demands (a demonstration of the special nature of the relations between the two countries was Trump's meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, whom the US President received as the first foreign leader), realizes that the large-scale initiatives of the White House that meet the interests of the Israelis, especially regarding the Gaza Strip, remain as projects difficult to implement.

### Legacy of the past

The Biden administration tried to continue the process of normalizing relations between Israel and Arab countries that had begun during Trump's first term, but this proved impossible under the new conditions. Moreover, Washington's position during the war in Gaza, which was devoid of principles and consistency, resulted in a serious decline in US authority in the entire region.

**An increasing number of regional states are interested in stable and predictable development. In particular, the Arab monarchies of the Persian Gulf and Egypt have focused on mediation rather than military efforts to support the Palestinians.**

Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu after the negotiations in the Oval Office. February 4, 2025

Even in Israel, the Democrats' policies have not received a high appraisal. And although under Biden Washington fulfilled all its military and political obligations, any criticism from it, including very measured criticism of Tel Aviv, not to mention the rampant anti-Israeli sentiments on American university campuses, was perceived in the Jewish state as extremely painful and negative.

At the same time, the existing ideas about complete mutual understanding between Netanyahu and Trump reflect the experience that took place earlier, when the situation in the Middle East and in Israel itself was much calmer and more predictable. The process of normalizing relations between Tel Aviv and the Arab states initiated by Trump in 2020 (Israel, let me remind, signed peace agreements with Bahrain, Morocco, the UAE and Sudan) was perceived by the Israeli leadership as unequivocally positive.

Moreover, it seemed then that the Palestinian issue was largely fading into the background in the policies of leading Arab countries. The solution proposed by the Republican could have been the most painless for Israel: demarcation from the Palestinians without evacuating settlements. At that time, Trump declared his intention to recognize all existing Jewish settlements as Israeli territory, and called Jerusalem the "indivisible capital" of Israel.

In turn, the Israeli authorities welcomed the US withdrawal from the nuclear agreement with Iran signed under the Democrats — the notorious Joint Comprehensive Plan of



Action (JCPOA), although they were not entirely sure of the advantages that were opening up for them. As former Israeli diplomat Alon Pinhas emphasized, *"Israel was against the nuclear deal from the very beginning, because it claimed that it was a bad agreement... But Israel was also against the absence of an agreement, because it was just as bad, and perhaps even worse"*. And yet, for the Israelis, Trump's decision to withdraw from the Iran deal was rather good news. In Tel Aviv, it was seen as the White House's readiness to increase pressure on Tehran, especially since the task of containing Iran lay at the heart of Israel's normalization of relations with the Gulf monarchies.

### Trump Takes the Stage Again

The first test of the Republican president-elect's mediation efforts was his participation in the ceasefire and hostage-release agreement between Israel and Hamas. The parties involved in the conflict could not ignore the fact that the cooperation between the outgoing Biden administration and the Trump team on this issue was unusually close. There was no precedent in U. S. history for an elected but not inaugurated president and his unofficial envoy to play such a significant role in high-level international negotiations, especially with the support of the current head of the White House.

**The existing ideas about complete mutual understanding between Netanyahu and Trump reflect the experience that took place earlier, when the situation in the Middle East was much calmer.**



**It was Trump's position that became the main reason for reaching agreements on a ceasefire in Gaza. This is one of the rarest cases when real pressure was put on the Israeli side to make a deal.**

There is no doubt that it was Trump's position that became the main reason for reaching agreements on a ceasefire in Gaza. This is one of the rarest cases when real pressure was put on the Israeli side to make a deal. While this agreement could not save Biden's reputation, for Trump it was a landmark. The truce emphasized the new president's ability to advance the settlement of the Middle East conflict that he had announced, prompting regional players to demonstrate compliance.

The new administration's special style also played a role. Trump's special envoy to the Middle East, Steven Witkoff, held tense meetings with Netanyahu, and, as noted, they became the key to a breakthrough in the negotiating process. Not a diplomat, but a businessman who wants to quickly conclude a deal, Witkoff, according to sources, acted "unusually aggressively". It is also noteworthy that he went to Tel Aviv to meet with the Israeli prime minister on his own, although special envoys usually require approval from the US Senate for such trips.



Netanyahu, expectedly faced with radical opposition within the cabinet, chose to take the risk of not irritating Trump, hoping to secure his support on other issues important to Israel, including those related to Iran.

**Israel: A New Political Picture**

Military operations in Gaza and Lebanon, accompanied by significant casualties among the civilian Arab population, completely changed the balance of power in the Jewish state. The Israel Defense Forces waged war on several fronts in order to achieve a new level of security, which implied the complete defeat of the enemy. The goals set, which in principle did not allow compromises, made the Israeli leadership extremely intransigent. An interesting detail: literally a few hours after the announced truce between Israel and Hamas, Biden's representative publicly admitted that it was Netanyahu who had been opposed to the agreement and de facto thwarted the previous peace deal, which could have been concluded back in the summer of 2024.

One of the most important reasons for Netanyahu's reluctance to make concessions even for the sake of freeing Israeli hostages was his desire to keep the ruling coalition, which included radical religious nationalists, from disintegrating at any cost. This was publicly acknowledged by influential politicians such as Benny Gantz, Gadi Eisenkot and Yoav Gallant, who accused Netanyahu of damaging the negotiating efforts by his desire to preserve the coalition.

Leaders of Israeli nationalists I. Ben-Gvir (left) and B. Smotrich

Demolished houses in the city of Khan Yunis. Gaza Strip. July 2024

Fearing new elections, fraught with unpredictable results for the current prime minister, Netanyahu is forced to listen to the opinions of his political allies. Among them are the leaders of the far-right nationalists Itamar Ben-Gvir (head of the Otzma Yehudit party) and Bezalel Smotrich (National Religious Party — Religious Zionism), who regularly threaten to leave the coalition, putting forward radical demands that are met with sharp criticism from the Israeli public.

Indicative in this regard is the reaction to the agreement with Hamas from Smotrich, who holds the post of Finance Minister in Netanyahu's government. Calling it a "bad and dangerous deal", Smotrich stressed that he would remain a member of the cabinet only if there was *"absolute certainty of a return to full-scale war until complete victory"*. In turn, Ben Gvir's response to the signing of the agreement was a demonstrative resignation from the post of Minister of National Security, although for now both he and his party remain in the coalition. Interestingly, two ministers, members of Netanyahu's Likud party bloc, also spoke out against the agreement.

At the same time, the reaction to the truce from the Israeli security forces was much more restrained and pragmatic, and the current Prime Minister could not help but take it into account. Despite the information that some Hamas leaders had begun recruiting new fighters in Gaza in order to restore the group's military potential, the heads of the security services said they supported the agreement. *"The IDF knows how to resume military operations with massive forces if nec-*



*essary"*, Chief of General Staff Herzi Halevy emphasized.

**From mutual understanding to mutual understanding?**

All the above said indicates that this time Trump, who has staked on settling the situation in the Middle East, will have a hard time dealing with Netanyahu, who is bound by the goals of preserving his political present, not to mention the future. It is no coincidence that the new US president, when asked by journalists whether he trusts the Israeli

Prime Minister, answered that he trusts no one.

Nevertheless, Trump aims to build on the success of the truce between Israel and Hamas and achieve fundamental shifts in the settlement of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. This is, in particular, the goal of his initiative on American "guardianship" over the Gaza Strip and the displacement of most of its population to Egypt and Jordan.

Another key area of the White House's Middle East policy could

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be a renewed attempt to normalize relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia, which, according to US National Security Advisor Michael Waltz, is a huge priority for the new administration. Establishing diplomatic ties between the two old adversaries would in practice mean end to the Arab-Israeli conflict, which would radically change the entire picture in the region.

The problem, however, is the realism and solvability of such tasks at the current stage of development of the situation in the Middle East. There is no doubt that over the past four years the positions of the parties have become significantly tougher, which will make the settlement process even more difficult,

not only for the US, but also for Israel and Saudi Arabia.

On the one hand, the Saudis are very interested in developing contacts with the new American administration. It is no coincidence that the Crown Prince of the Kingdom, Mohammed bin Salman, in his first telephone conversation with Trump promised to build up investments and increase the volume of bilateral trade with the United States up to \$600 billion over the next four years. On the other hand, it is obvious that the preconditions put forward by Riyadh will become even more stringent. Thus, the Saudis demanded from the Biden administration expanded security guarantees, up to participation of the

American Armed Forces in repelling threats against Saudi Arabia, receipt of modern weapons, and even US consent to the development of Saudi Arabia's own nuclear program, including access to closed-cycle technologies.

The Palestinian problem was a separate item. It is significant that back then, two or three years ago, it was far from being in the first place. Now, no matter how the Saudi authorities feel about the prospect of creating a Palestinian state, they are forced to take into account the public opinion in their state and in the Arab world and focus on this issue while maintaining all other conditions.

The changing situation in the Middle East also led to a hardening of Israel's position. The Hamas invasion was a powerful blow to the reputation of the country's leadership, which allowed the enemy to break through to "ancestral" Israeli territories, something that had not happened since 1948. And although there were quite alarmist reports, they were misinterpreted. The political vision of the situation played a decisive role. Politicians and part of the military command were sure that Hamas was not ready for large-scale military action, and Israel still had a respite.

The consequences are well known. Instead of the self-confident Netanyahu we remember from 2018–2020, a man has appeared on the scene who is absolutely dependent on the position of his coalition partners, fearing its collapse and the holding of new elections, which, in

Mohammed bin Salman and Donald Trump at a meeting in the White House. March 20, 2018

In an underground shelter on the south of Gaza Strip. 2023

case of a loss, could be followed by criminal prosecution. The expectation that he would be able to present the results of military action to society as an unconditional victory did not come true.

Of course, one can argue that Israel's position in the region has strengthened somewhat, primarily due to the weakening of Iran and a number of its "proxies", but this happened due to circumstances beyond Tel Aviv's control (the main one being the fall of Bashar al-Assad's regime in Syria). Moreover, while the undermining of Hezbollah's military potential and the powerful blow to its personnel did indeed take place, then in the case of Hamas, success is not so obvious. Uncertainty remains as to whether the Israeli prime minister is ready to take new political risks in the current circumstances.

Of course, normalizing relations with Saudi Arabia would be a major breakthrough — not only for Israel, but also for Netanyahu personally. However, it is unclear whether he is capable of paying the price that will be presented to him. If even the agreement with Hamas caused a political storm in the government, what consequences will have the demand for Tel Aviv to change its course on the Palestinian issue? Let me remind you that an explosive situation has developed not only in Gaza, but also on the West Bank, where armed settlers representing the Israeli right-wing camp are acting increasingly assertively, and where an armed Palestinian resistance is actively forming. By the way, one of Trump's first decisions after



his new arrival in the White House was to lift sanctions against settlers imposed by the previous US administration.

There is no doubt that any attempt to start the process of settling the Palestinian problem, or even to announce it, could provoke a collapse of the ruling coalition with extremely negative consequences for Netanyahu. However, much will depend on what specific plan the American president will propose. His idea of resettling a significant part of the Palestinians from Gaza

to Egypt and Jordan has caused a positive response from the Israeli far right. Such initiatives have always been considered "red lines" for the Arabs, but resettlement as a step towards the restoration of Gaza seems to Trump to be a promising business project. It is difficult to say what kind of ideas the new American administration will come up with next time, but, apparently, the trusting relationship between the leaders of the United States and Israel may not only be preserved, but also gain a more stable foundation.

Much will depend on what specific plan the American president will propose. His idea of resettling a significant part of the Palestinians from Gaza to Egypt and Jordan has caused a positive response from the Israeli far right.



# Global Finance

## Is it possible to get rid of dollar dominance?

Text: Oleg Olegovich Komolov, PhD in Economics, Senior Researcher at the Institute of Economics of the Russian Academy of Sciences



**Recently, there have been growing calls for reform of the current global financial system, based on the hegemony of the American dollar, which allows the United States to have unfair competitive advantages and powerful leverage over its opponents. Let's recall how this system was built and consider whether there are real alternatives.**

The dollar's emergence as the world's leading currency began over 100 years ago, when the British Empire, after nearly three centuries of undivided dominance as the world's leading industrial power, began to yield its hegemony to new industrial centers. Before that, its vast colonial base allowed the metropolis to have cheap resources and sell the goods produced from them at monopolistically high prices. The possibility of sustainably extracting imperialist rent deprived British industry of the incentive to modernize, and by the beginning of the last century it remained on a technical and techno-

logical base that had been largely formed in the first quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Investments were increasingly going abroad, and the income from them was almost ten times higher than the profit from investments within the country. The population not involved in production processes was growing rapidly, and the number of rentiers exceeded a million people (more than 2.5% of the British).

In these conditions, the USA and Germany came to the forefront, actively developing their own industry, inter alia thanks to English invest-

ments. The industrial revolution in both countries, which was completed by the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, took place on a more advanced technological basis, which contributed to an explosive growth in labor productivity. The German industry began to surpass the British one, and goods produced in Germany began to compete with English ones not only on world markets, but also within Britain itself.

And although, I repeat, two countries, Germany and the USA, claimed leadership, it was the latter that managed to secure its place at the top of the economic Olympus. Two world wars played a significant role in this, weakening European states and strengthening the global positions of American capital. During the First World War, the United States was the main creditor of the warring parties: by 1917, the total volume of loans issued exceeded 2 billion dollars (the

equivalent of 50 billion dollars in today's prices). The funds were used primarily to purchase military equipment and other goods in the United States itself, promoting the development of American industry.

The Second World War allowed the United States not only to overcome the Great Depression, provoked by the crisis of overproduction, but also to firmly secure its status as the main supplier of high-tech products, primarily weapons, ensuring the American economy sustainable growth for years to come. It should also be noted that during the war, gold reserves from Denmark, the Netherlands, Poland, France and other European countries were taken to the United States, which further strengthened America's financial power.

In the summer of 1944, at the conference in the American Bretton Woods, where delegates from 44 coun-

tries — members of the anti-Hitler coalition, including representatives of the USSR and China — gathered, new principles of world trade settlements were developed. In particular, a standard based on gold and two reserve currencies — the US dollar and the British pound — was introduced. At the same time, the dollar rate was fixedly linked to the price of gold (\$35 per troy ounce), and the rate of other currencies was calculated depending on the American one. And, finally, the most important thing: the emission of the dollar was limited by the volume of gold and exchange currency reserves of the USA.

The flaws of the Bretton Woods system became apparent fairly quickly. Countries around the world began to accumulate American currency, viewing it as the most reliable asset. To ensure trade turnover, the US had to print more and more banknotes, which caused their real value to fall.

In the 1960s, confidence in the dollar declined so much that France and Germany demanded that America exchange part of its dollar reserves back for gold. By the early 1970s, it became obvious that Washington was issuing significantly more paper money into circulation than its gold reserves could support. One of the reasons for this was the financing of major military expenditures, including the Vietnam War, and the space race with the USSR. In 1971, the US President Richard Nixon announced the abandonment of the dollar's peg to gold. Formally, this decision was explained by the growth of the world economy, which required an increase in money supply, but in fact it meant the loss of gold backing for the dollar.

In 1976, the Bretton Woods system was replaced by the Jamaican system, which established floating exchange rates. Their value began to be determined by the market. De-



« Using the dollar as the world's reserve currency brings the US a lot of unearned money. Over the last 10 years, they have received about 10 trillion dollars just like that, "out of the sky".

President of Russia V.V. Putin  
(speech at the VTB forum "Russia Calling!", December 2024)

spite the abandonment of the gold standard, the dollar retained its dominant position in global trade settlements and continues to do so to this day. The reasons for this are not so much the scale of the US economy as its political and military power, which allows it to ensure financial dominance through instruments of external pressure.

Unlike most countries in the world, which are forced to earn the American currency needed for international trade transactions by exporting their products (or borrowing from other countries or supranational institutions such as the World Bank, and then paying it back with interest), the United States holds a unique position. De facto, it can carry out almost unlimited dollar emission, essentially borrowing money from itself, since the interest on debt bonds issued by the US Treasury is paid off by issuing new dollars. This allows the States to compensate for the negative trade balance with the dollar volume constantly increasing and spreading around the world.

This economic model, in which one country receives much more from others than it gives in return, is called unequal exchange. America has been living like this, at someone else's expense, for decades. Since the late 1970s, its foreign trade deficit has been growing steadily. By the end of 2024, the gap between US imports (\$4.1 trillion) and exports

(\$3.2 trillion) was almost 28%. And this difference is covered to a large extent by accumulating national debt, which has reached astronomical levels since the abandonment of gold backing (see chart). However, as long as there is demand for American currency in the world, the endlessly growing debt of the United States is not their problem.

Moreover, the US authorities continue to strengthen the dollar hegemony through the mechanism of currency swap lines opened to their closest allies: Great Britain, the European Union, Canada and Japan. Within its framework, direct currency exchanges at a fixed rate are available to the central banks of the participating countries. For example, the ECB can receive any amount of dollars from the Fed in exchange for euros, meaning that the EU de facto issues dollars outside the US and then issues dollar loans to European commercial banks. This practice, which began during the global financial crisis, became entrenched for many years, and acquired particular significance in the midst of the pandemic.

Participants in global trade are certainly aware of the risks associated with the dollar's dominance and are ready to carry out at least partial currency diversification of foreign economic relations. However, due to the lack of adequate alternatives, the process of de-dollarization is proceeding extremely slowly. Over the

past 20 years, the share of the dollar in the currency reserves of other countries has decreased by no more than 10%, falling to 56–57%. The second most important currency is the euro — 20% of world reserves. They are followed by the Japanese yen, the British pound (approximately 5% each) and the Chinese yuan (2%). Another 11% is accounted for by other currencies. The dollar retains its leadership both as a means of payment (up to 60% of global trade transactions are conducted in it) and as a currency for international loans.

Nonetheless, many countries are taking increasingly active measures to reduce their excessive dependence on the dollar and the Western financial system as a whole. After the freezing of Russian assets in American and European banks, the urgency of this task is well understood throughout the non-Western world.

It can be said that our country is a pioneer here. In 2014, Russia signed an agreement with China on settlements in national currencies, in 2019 it transferred trade operations with the EU and China to euros and yuan, and by the summer of 2021, the Russian National Welfare Fund had completely gotten rid of dollar assets. However, it should be noted that until 2022, the decline in the share of the dollar occurred mainly due to replacement with the euro, which maintained a high level of risks of sanctions pressure. The Russian economy was looking for opportunities not to completely abandon Western currencies, not wanting to lose the advantages associated with their high convertibility and exchange rate stability.

After the start of the special military operation, when many negative scenarios were realized in the financial sector, the search for reliable, convenient, and most importantly, non-

Western controlled instruments for servicing cross-border payments has noticeably accelerated, as has the process of de-dollarization (in a broad sense, as a rejection of all Western currencies). Over the past three years, the share of the dollar and euro in Russia's foreign trade settlements has been steadily falling and by the end of 2024 it reached historical lows: 18.6% in exports and 22% in imports.

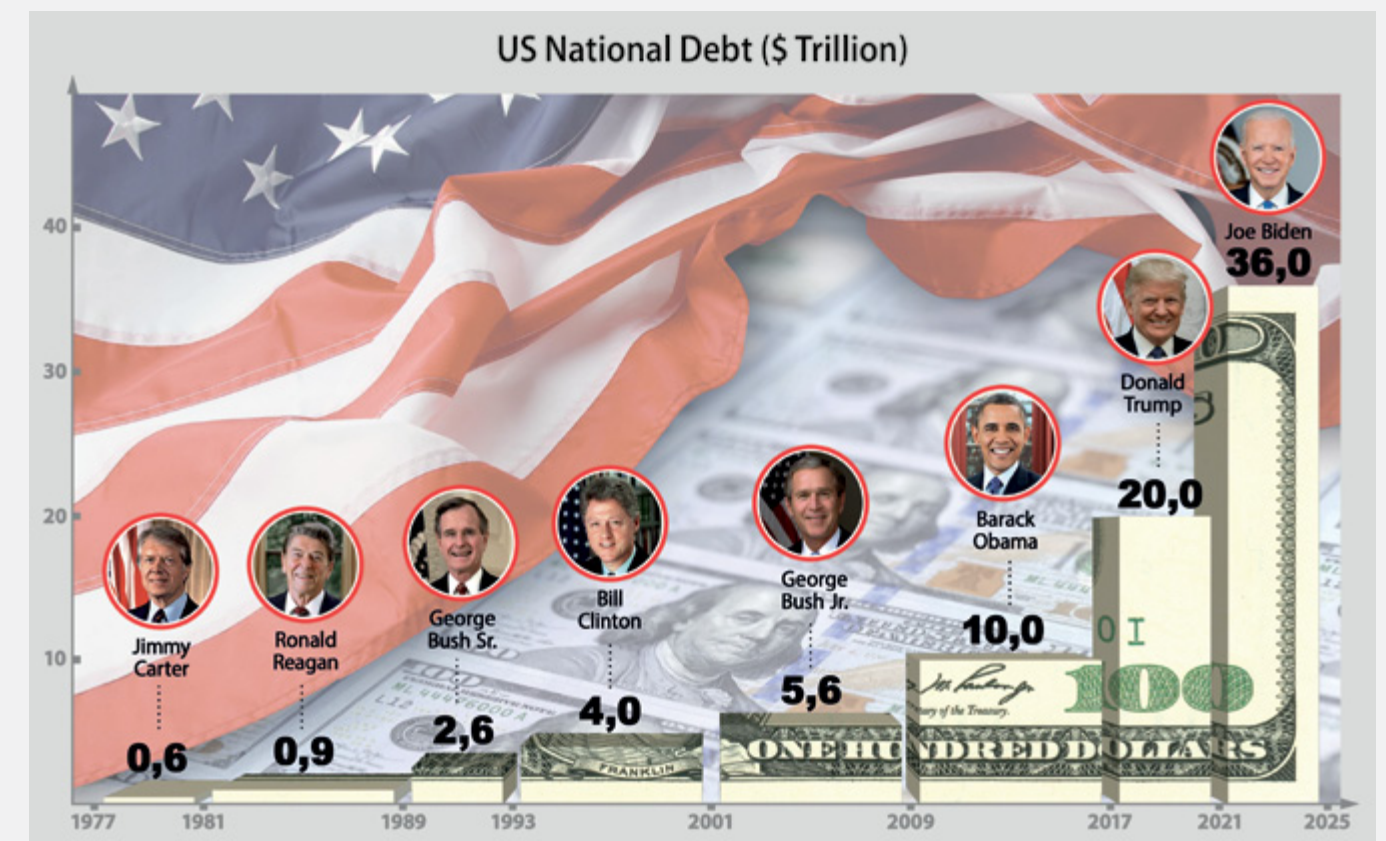
The transition to national currencies in trade has eliminated some technical problems, but others have arisen in their place. These include difficulties with withdrawing funds from accounts in foreign banks, as well as risks associated with exchange rate fluctuations. Therefore, the idea of creating new mechanisms, such as a single currency, remains extremely relevant. At one of the recent BRICS summits, the members of the association came

up with an initiative to launch a common currency, which was dictated by the desire to reduce the risks of sanctions pressure from the US and the EU against the backdrop of the growing confrontation between its leading members and the West.

At the same time, the project's implementation is still at an early stage and is associated with a number of difficulties. Firstly, the functioning of a single currency will require a system linked to the payment infrastructures of the participating countries, which must be harmonized with each other as much as possible. And not only from a legal but also from a technical point of view, and this requires a serious investment. Secondly, it is necessary to develop an algorithm for calculating exchange rates, as well as stability mechanisms, that allow maintaining stability under any external influences. Thirdly, it is important

to agree in advance on such fundamental issues as the independence and equality of the participants. In particular, to answer the questions of whether the BRICS members will be ready to transfer control over currency policy to an external body, how to ensure equality of votes in decision-making, regulate currency transactions, exercise control over the movement of capital, etc.

Let us emphasize that a currency union is one of the highest forms of economic integration, on the way to which the participants must consistently go through several stages: a free trade zone, a customs union, a common market, and an economic union. For the moment, the BRICS members are far from this. However, the statements made at the 16<sup>th</sup> summit in Kazan indicate the readiness of the political leadership of the association to move in this direction. [↗](#)





At the end of January 2025, the Republican administration headed by President Donald Trump got to work in the United States. "Razvedchik" spoke with one of the most authoritative Americanists in our country, First Deputy Chairman of the State Duma Committee on International Affairs V. A. Nikonov, about the prospects for the development of Russian-American relations in the new circumstances.

Vyacheslav Alekseevich, you have been studying US politics for over half a century, both of your dissertations are dedicated to the Republicans and the evolution of their views. How far away do you think modern representatives of this party have moved from the principles of republicanism, how much do they differ from their ideological like-minded people of the Cold War era, and how important is the party division in today's America?

Trump is certainly not a typical Republican. Trump is Trump, he does not think of himself in party categories. Some features of the ideology he conveys bring him closer to traditional Republicans. First of all, this is conservatism, rejection of the LGBT agenda. But everything else, including the original Republican ideas about a small state that does not interfere in people's lives, has long been forgotten. As for the foreign policy, Republicans have always been considered pragmatists. But this is no longer the case as well. Now both Democrats and Republicans start wars. By the way, Trump is the only post-war president who did not sanction a single new foreign intervention during his first term in the Oval Office.

Trump has his own agenda that breaks the usual patterns and frameworks of behav-

ior on the world stage. If we call a spade a spade, this is a push for American interests, an attempt to forcefully maintain global leadership in line with the ideas of John Winthrop, the head of the Puritan communities in Massachusetts, who called America a City on a Hill, a modern Jerusalem, the center of the Universe.

On the one hand, this is a certain strength of Trump, because under the slogans of messianism and American omnipotence he really does manage to impose his will on other countries. But this is also his weakness, because in the modern world America is not omnipotent, and the owner of the White House clearly overestimates its power.

**Does anyone in the US understand that they don't have the same strength anymore?**

Americans' ideas about the modern world are quite different from reality. They underestimate us, as has always been the case with Western politicians. Napoleon and Hitler underestimated us in their time. Now the USA does the same.

**An interesting parallel...**

The parallel is, in fact, understandable, because any contender for global hegemony

#### Vyacheslav Alekseyevich Nikonov

Was born on June 5, 1956 in Moscow in a family of scientists. He is the grandson of the Soviet statesman V.M. Molotov. In 1978, graduated from the historical faculty of the Moscow State University, for over a decade worked in his alma mater in the department of modern history, then in the CPSU Central Committee apparatus. In 1993–1995 – deputy of the Russian State Duma, in 1997–2001 – member of Presidential Advisory Council. In 2011, he was reelected to the Duma, since October 2021 – First Deputy Chairman of the Committee for International Affairs. Dean of the faculty of Public Management of the MSU. Doctor of historical sciences.

**Historian and political scientist  
Vyacheslav Nikonov:  
"We need to build  
a new world  
without looking  
back to the west"**



« We are the only state on the planet capable of wiping the United States into dust. They are well aware of this, and therefore the task of destroying us has never been removed.

sooner or later runs into us, Russians, and sets the goal of destroying us. Because for them we are an alternative center of power, threatening their global dominance. During the Cold War, when there was a bipolar structure, all the efforts of the United States were directed at destroying the Soviet Union.

The world is more complex now, new centers of power have emerged. The same China, which has long since overtaken the United States in economic terms and continues to pull away. For America today, this is the main geo-economic challenge, and the main geopolitical challenge is still us, Russia. And the main military-strategic one too. Because we are the only state on the planet capable of wiping the United States into dust. They are well aware of this, and therefore the task of destroying us has never been removed.

People's Commissar for the foreign affairs of the USSR V.M. Molotov (left) meets the British delegation. Yalta. February 4, 1945



brace. Direct aggression against us does not work well. When we are pressured, and this happens every 100 years — the Poles, the Swedes, Napoleon, Hitler, now Ukraine and NATO — we brace ourselves and fight back. It is impossible to take us from the outside. Therefore, from the point of view of Western elites, the strategy of strangling Russia is more promising, and it has already borne fruit. The same Gorbachev's perestroika and new thinking are an example of a typical strangulation in an embrace.

Do we need good relations with the West today? Personally, I am not sure. Why return to a situation where we will be strangled in an embrace? What will this give us? The CO-COM lists, that is, restrictions on the supply of high-tech products, have remained since the Soviet era, they have just been renamed. What have we received from the West since the 1990s? Investments on enslaving terms? And what have our investments in American securities given us?

**It is clear that the attitude towards us in the West will never change, but is there a possibility of returning to at least a calm and constructive dialogue?**

If we talk about the attitude towards Russia, I know of only two moments in history when we had a good, positive image in the West: somewhere from March to May 1917 and from about August to December 1991, that is, when we were falling apart. The rest of the time, and this is approximately from the time of Vasily III, from the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the image of Russia as a wild and dangerous country with an uneducated and barbaric population prevails in Europe and other Western countries. It is naive to think that strong, independent Russia could appeal to someone in the West. We are too big and too Russian for them. And they want to talk to us only in the way they are used to in their colonies.

One of the main global problems is that the West is the only civilization on the planet that is not capable of communicating with others on equal terms. It can only subjugate and dictate. In accordance with the well-known in-

structions for the British colonial authorities in Africa. There was a point there: "If you are not understood, speak up", that is, "speak louder". That's all, actually. They imagined themselves to be the pinnacle of civilization, and the rest of the world for them are savages to whom they must dictate their terms. And for centuries, many obeyed them, believing that the West is truly the pinnacle of the universe.

**During the Second World War, we were considered allies with the British and Americans. Was there a chance to maintain relations?**

Towards the end of the war, many people really thought that the Soviet Union would continue to maintain allied relations with Britain and the USA, saying that America was interested in this too... But, as is well known, even before the Victory, the British began to develop the "Unthinkable" plan, which intelligence reported to the USSR leadership, and in 1946, W. Churchill gave a famous speech in Fulton, USA, marking the beginning of the Cold War. So, the world very quickly became bipolar.

By the way, there are several draft versions of the Fulton speech, and, as it turns out, the most poignant passages were written on the train that Churchill and Truman rode to Fulton. So, the American leader was not only aware of its contents, but also, probably, it was he who insisted on including the most scathing paragraphs. It was simply much easier for Churchill, already as a former prime minister, to voice them. After all, if somebody does not remember, this speech was extremely negatively received by the population in both Britain and America. Everyone understood that this was the end of allied relations.

The personality factor is clearly visible here. For example, I believe that if Roosevelt had lived, the chances for continued cooperation between the USSR and the West would have remained. And it is not so much that he had a good relationship with Stalin. Roosevelt was a representative of the New England aristocracy, with a good education and a worldview, and a global thinker as well. It was he who put forward the idea of four "policemen" — the USSR, the USA, Great Britain and China — who would rule the world.



Winston Churchill, Harry Truman and Joseph Stalin. Potsdam. June 23, 1945

Truman was a completely different person, he became president in many respects by accident. Before him, Roosevelt had Henry Wallace, a friend of the Soviet Union, as his vice president for three years. But on the eve of the 1944 elections, Roosevelt decided to attract conservative votes, so he chose Senator Truman, who was popular among them. So, who was he? Truman was nicknamed "Pendergast's Senator". Tom Pendergast was the head of the Democratic party machine in Missouri. In other words, the mafia. In the 1930s, Truman was a mafia lawyer, then a mafia senator. And when he became president, he continued to look at the world through the eyes of the mafia: why share power, why four policemen, when there is one boss with a big gun?

When Truman was told on his first day in office that the US had nuclear weapons, he took them exactly that way — as a big gun. And off it went: Hiroshima, Nagasaki, betting on global dominance, crushing those Russians. So, in my opinion, in Truman's case, the role of the individual in history is clearly vis-

« One of the main global problems is that the West is the only civilization on the planet that is not capable of communicating with others on equal terms.



ible. Our relations with the US and the West as a whole changed, literally turned upside down in a matter of days. My grandfather (*USSR Foreign Minister V.M. Molotov — editor's note*) recalled that when he came to Washington at the end of April 1944, he had a very tough conversation with the Americans.

To talk about the role of personality. You say that Trump is a pragmatist. Do you have any positive expectations for his new rise to power? I remember eight years ago, on the occasion of his first election, champagne was opened in the State Duma...

As is well known, the champagne was opened by the main prophet of Russian politics, Vladimir Volfovich Zhirinovskiy. Although, perhaps, I expected more from Trump back then as well. Now I don't have any big positive expectations. First of all, because his agenda does not coincide with ours. For him, America is above all, including Russia, and for us, everything connected with hegemonism is, in principle, unacceptable. And there are few points of contact here. The only thing that is certain is that Trump is really not about war. He is a developer, and any destruction is not profitable for him, this is embedded on a subconscious level, real estate should bring income. And his business pragmatism is to our advantage.

At the same time, Trump understands the role of size, whether in politics or economics, and wants to deal with big ones. For him, talking to China and Russia is certainly more prestigious than talking to Denmark or Columbia. At the same time, both we and China are America's main enemies, which is clearly written in all doctrinal documents, including those adopted by the first Trump administration. The idea of containing Russia and China is the keynote in them.

Another thing is that the US is clearly no longer able to confront both Russia and China at the same time, and getting involved in this dual confrontation is a huge mistake for the Americans. Eight years ago, I was afraid that Trump would start negotiating with the Chinese against us, but he, on the contrary, unleashed a trade war with them. I consider this his main geopolitical miscalculation.

At least on the Ukrainian issue, contacts between Russia and the US are about to begin / have already begun. What can we expect?

It's important for Trump to tell the world that he's put an end to the war in Ukraine. He wants to win the Nobel Peace Prize. It's clear that this isn't his war, and he didn't start it. Although, it should be noted that Trump did nothing to stop the fighting during his first term as president. Donetsk was being shelled for all four years during his tenure. And his response was 46 rounds of sanctions.

For the moment, during the first meeting of Sergey Lavrov and Yury Ushakov with Rubio and Waltz, they were able to come to an agreement concerning normalization of the work of embassies, setting up a negotiation group on Ukraine, and prospects for cooperation. The rest of the work lies ahead. It is comforting that Trump is ready to ignore the EU and Ukraine, but the American inner state, the EU and Kiev will do everything to disrupt the peace process.

The danger is that Trump will, roughly speaking, cling to our arms in order to force us to accept some deal, which he will then be able to sell in the West as a success of his peace-keeping mission. But it is unlikely that such a thing will suit us. This is the first thing.

The second point. Okay, we agreed on something with them, and a day later they changed their minds. The administration changed, a new president came in, who didn't sign anything. What should we do? Are the US even capable of negotiating? In recent years, they haven't kept any agreement, they can withdraw from any. Then what's the point of the new agreements?

Are there any other areas of practical cooperation that could potentially be of interest to us and the Americans? Space? Strategic stability?

Space is a high-tech area. Are we so interested in cooperating with the United States here, given that we are ahead of them in many parameters? In addition, we have a joint project with China on a lunar station. Should we sacrifice it? In my opinion, it is ridiculous to even talk about it... Of course, if the Americans offer us to do something together in space, we will have to look at it. But as far as it is known, we are planning to launch an orbital station without the United States.

As for strategic stability, that is, the sphere of arms control, here, I believe, it is realistic to reach an agreement with the United States. First of all, we are talking about preserving the parameters of the START-3 treaty, which expires in 2026. The United States, and then we, withdrew from it, but we continue to adhere to the stated ceilings. In principle, it is possible to agree not to go beyond these limits. In any case, the Americans are interested in this, since their nuclear missile program lags behind ours, and it is in their interests to limit us. In America, everything is getting out of date, and our entire nuclear triad has been modernized, and there is a quantitative and qualitative superiority. Do we need new agreements with the United States? Perhaps. In any case, as long as we fit within these ceilings and are not going to go beyond them, I would not rule it out. But here, again, the question of trust in the Americans and the West as a whole arises.

The special military operation in Ukraine has been going on for over three years. Do you have a feeling that it is getting closer to an end?

A very difficult question. Probably, only our President has the answer to it, because he is probably the only one who sees the whole picture. Diplomatic, economic, military-political.

But I believe that without fulfilling all the tasks set, the SVO cannot be stopped. The result must be our unconditional victory. Other-

« I don't think that the goal of our new big dialogue with the West should be to delimit spheres of influence or draw any borders. If we agree, then we should immediately go to Yalta 2.0.

wise, we will not justify all the sacrifices that we have made and continue to make, and the sacrifices are great. Our society will not understand this. Therefore, I believe that we must follow everything through. Our cause is just. The enemy will be defeated. Victory will be ours!

And later on, who to negotiate with? About a new world order, new rules, red lines... With whom sign a new Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact?

Good question. The Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact was a local event that allowed for a time to delimit spheres of interest between the USSR and Germany. I don't think that the goal of our new big dialogue with the West should be to delimit spheres of influence or draw any borders. If we agree, then we should immediately go to Yalta 2.0. Discuss new global rules of the game and principles of world order.

At the session of the BRICS Academic Forum. Moscow. 2020



« The US is clearly no longer able to confront both Russia and China at the same time, and getting involved in this dual confrontation is a huge mistake for the Americans.





At a conference  
in Moscow. 2015

At the same time, we must understand that these principles already exist, they are written. The final declaration of the BRICS summit in Kazan contains absolutely everything, the entire model of relations between states: do not impose your will on others, do not interfere in internal affairs, take into account the concerns and legitimate interests of partners, make common decisions and act on the basis of consensus.

Any document within BRICS is adopted by consensus. Considering the number of members of the association, this is very difficult. I am speaking about this first-hand. I have been heading the BRICS academic forum for over 15 years and I know very well what it means to prepare a collective document. Nevertheless, if you want, everything is possible. You work with letters, words, concepts, terms, but

you come to an agreement. And this, I repeat, is a completely different principle of relationships, into which the entire world majority fits organically today. With the exception of the West. So, in fact, the problem is how to integrate the West into this civilized world.

#### Is it needed there?

The question is who needs whom more. For a long time, for some reason, we believed that we needed them more. Today, life shows that we can easily do without them, we are self-sufficient. And the rest of the world, I think, is quite capable of doing without them. But they can hardly do without us. Look how the US is trying to continue milking everyone. But it doesn't work out like before. We don't want to be their resource base, neither do the Chinese, even the Africans openly defy them. This is the problem in a nutshell, hence all the clashes. Only Europe can't say anything to the Americans, that's why the US treats it this way. And Trump, I think, will increase the milking of allies, there is no one else to milk.

This is the model of the modern world built by the Americans. The "King of the Hill" model, when all financial and other resource flows are closed on the USA. That is why it cannot be repeated, building another pyramid or two nearby. There will always be a place at the top for only one. But in fact, this is also the huge inverse dependence of the United States on the rest of the world. After all, they have an economy of bubbles and candy wrappers, and real production is located elsewhere. While the USA dictated the rules of the game, forcing others to pay in dollars, this model worked. But the world has changed dramatically, the West is rapidly losing control over resources. Russia has fought back, and the Westerners can do nothing about us, they have no leverage over us. Further, I have no doubt, their problems will only grow like a snowball.

We, on our part, need to build a new world together with our partners, a fair and equal one. Without looking back at the Western countries. Sooner or later they themselves will come to us and ask to be accepted. This will be our Victory. 🇷🇺

Interviewed  
by Mikhail Pogudin

« The world has changed dramatically, the West is rapidly losing control over resources. Russia has fought back, and the Westerners can do nothing about us, they have no leverage over us.



## THE SVR OF RUSSIA IS AUTHORIZED TO DECLARE



СВР РОССИИ  
СНЯТИЕ КОПИЙ ВОСПРЕЩАЕТСЯ

РАССЕКРЕЧЕНО

СЕКРЕТНО  
ЭКЗ № 1

Ш И Ф Р Т Е Л Е Г Р А М М А № 12/324



26.12.2024 08:40

ТОВ. СЕРГЕЕВУ

О ПОДГОТОВКЕ ТЕРАТАК НА БАЗЫ ВС РФ В СИРИИ

ПО ПОСТУПАЮЩИМ СВЕДЕНИЯМ, МИ-6 И ЦРУ ПОСЛЕ СВЕРЖЕНИЯ ПРЕЗИДЕНТА СИРИИ Б. АСАДА ПОСТАВИЛИ ПЕРЕД БАЗИРУЮЩИМИСЯ В ЭТОЙ СТРАНЕ ПОДКОНТРОЛЬНЫМИ ИМ ПОЛЕВЫМИ КОМАНДИРАМИ ИГИЛ ЗАДАЧУ ОСУЩЕСТВИТЬ СЕРИЮ НАПАДЕНИЙ НА ВОЕННЫЕ БАЗЫ РФ. ДЛЯ ВЫПОЛНЕНИЯ ЭТОЙ ГРЯЗНОЙ РАБОТЫ ТЕРРОРИСТАМ ПРЕДОСТАВЛЕНЫ УДАРНЫЕ БПЛА. В ЦЕЛЯХ СОКРЫТИЯ ПРИЧАСТНОСТИ ИГИЛОВЦЕВ К ПЛАНИРУЕМЫМ ВЫЛАЗКАМ БРИТАНСКИЕ И АМЕРИКАНСКИЕ ВВС ПОЛУЧИЛИ УКАЗАНИЕ КОМАНДОВАНИЯ ПРОДОЛЖАТЬ НАНОСИТЬ ОГРАНИЧЕННЫЕ УДАРЫ ПО ПОЗИЦИЯМ ИГИЛ, О ЧЕМ БОЕВИКОВ ЗАРАНЕЕ УВЕДОМЛЯЮТ, ЧТОБЫ ТЕ НЕ ПОНЕСЛИ ПОТЕРЬ.

США И ВЕЛИКОБРИТАНИЯ СТРЕМЯТСЯ НЕ ДОПУСТИТЬ СТАБИЛИЗАЦИИ ОБСТАНОВКИ В СИРИИ. В БОЛЕЕ ШИРОКОМ ПЛАНЕ СТАВИТСЯ ЗАДАЧА ПОДДЕРЖАНИЯ ХАОСА НА ВСЕМ БЛИЖНЕМ ВОСТОКЕ. АНГЛОСАКСЫ ИСХОДЯТ ИЗ ТОГО, ЧТО В ПОДОВНЫХ УСЛОВИЯХ ОНИ СМОГУТ БЫСТРЕЕ ДОСТИЧЬ СВОЕЙ ГЕОПОЛИТИЧЕСКОЙ ЦЕЛИ - ОБЕСПЕЧИТЬ ДЛИТЕЛЬНОЕ ДОМИНИРОВАНИЕ В РЕГИОНЕ В РУСЛЕ КОНЦЕПЦИИ "ПОРЯДКА, ОСНОВАННОГО НА ПРАВИЛАХ". ЭТОМУ, ОДНАКО, ПРЕПЯТСТВУЕТ ВОЕННОЕ ПРИСУТСТВИЕ РОССИИ НА СРЕДИЗЕМНОМОРСКОМ ПОБЕРЕЖЬЕ СИРИИ, ДО СИХ ПОР ВЫСТУПАЮЩЕЕ ЗНАЧИМЫМ ФАКТОРОМ РЕГИОНАЛЬНОЙ СТАБИЛЬНОСТИ.

В ЛОНДОНЕ И ВАШИНГТОНЕ РАССЧИТЫВАЮТ, ЧТО ПОДОВНЫЕ ПРОВОКАЦИИ ПОБУДЯТ РОССИЙСКОЕ РУКОВОДСТВО К СКОРЕЙШЕЙ ЭВАКУАЦИИ ВОЕННЫХ ИЗ СИРИИ. ОДНОВРЕМЕННО ЭТО ПОЗВОЛИТ ОБВИНИТЬ НОВЫЕ СИРИЙСКИЕ ВЛАСТИ В НЕСПОСОБНОСТИ КОНТРОЛИРОВАТЬ РАДИКАЛОВ.

НР 327 РЕЗИДЕНТ СВР ДИАС 25.12.24 22.20



СВР РОССИИ  
СНЯТИЕ КОПИЙ ВОСПРЕЩАЕТСЯ

РАССЕКРЕЧЕНО

СЕКРЕТНО  
ЭКЗ № 1

Ш И Ф Р Т Е Л Е Г Р А М М А № 01/121



31.01.2025 14:30

ТОВ. СЕРГЕЕВУ

О КАМПАНИИ СТРАН НАТО ПО ДИСКРЕДИТАЦИИ В.ЗЕЛЕНСКОГО

ПО ПОСТУПАЮЩЕЙ ИНФОРМАЦИИ, В ШТАБ-КВАРТИРЕ НАТО ЗАДУМЫВАЮТСЯ О СМЕНЕ ВЛАСТИ НА УКРАИНЕ. В БРЮССЕЛЕ ИСХОДЯТ ИЗ ТОГО, ЧТО ВСУ СКОРО ОКАЖУТСЯ НЕ В СОСТОЯНИИ СДЕРЖИВАТЬ НАРАСТАЮЩИЙ НАТИСК РОССИЙСКОЙ АРМИИ. С ПРИХОДОМ К ВЛАСТИ В США Д. ТРАМПА УСИЛИВАЕТСЯ НЕОПРЕДЕЛЕННОСТЬ В ОТНОШЕНИИ ПРОДОЛЖЕНИЯ ВОЕННОЙ ПОМОЩИ, КОТОРУЮ ЗАПАД СМОЖЕТ ОКАЗЫВАТЬ КИЕВУ.

КАК СООБЩАЮТ ИСТОЧНИКИ, В РУКОВОДСТВЕ АЛЬЯНСА СЧИТАЮТ КРАЙНЕ ВАЖНЫМ СОХРАНИТЬ ОСТАТКИ УКРАИНЫ В КАЧЕСТВЕ АНТИРОССИЙСКОГО ПЛАЦДАРМА, ДЛЯ ЧЕГО ПРЕДЛАГАЕТСЯ "ЗАМОРОЗИТЬ" КОНФЛИКТ ПУТЕМ ЗАПУСКА ДИАЛОГА О "НАЧАЛЕ ЕГО УРЕГУЛИРОВАНИЯ". ПРИ ЭТОМ В ВАШИНГТОНЕ И БРЮССЕЛЕ СХОДЯТСЯ ВО МНЕНИИ О ТОМ, ЧТО "ГЛАВНОЙ ПОМЕХОЙ" ДЛЯ РЕАЛИЗАЦИИ ПОДОБНОГО СЦЕНАРИЯ ЯВЛЯЕТСЯ ДЕЙСТВУЮЩИЙ ГЛАВА КИЕВСКОГО РЕЖИМА В. ЗЕЛЕНСКИЙ, ИМЕНУЕМЫЙ В КУЛУАРАХ НА ЗАПАДЕ КАК "ОТРАБОТАННЫЙ МАТЕРИАЛ". ИЗБАВИТЬСЯ ОТ ЭТОЙ ФИГУРЫ СЧИТАЕТСЯ ВОЗМОЖНЫМ ЧЕРЕЗ ПРОВЕДЕНИЕ ПСЕВДОДЕМОКРАТИЧЕСКИХ ВЫБОРОВ, КОТОРЫЕ, КАК СЧИТАЮТ В АЛЬЯНСЕ, МОГУТ СОСТОЯТЬСЯ НЕ ПОЗДНЕЕ ОСЕНИ С.Г.

ДЛЯ ДОСТИЖЕНИЯ ПОСТАВЛЕННОЙ ЦЕЛИ НАТОВЦЫ ГОТОВЯТ МАШТАБНУЮ ОПЕРАЦИЮ ПО ДИСКРЕДИТАЦИИ В. ЗЕЛЕНСКОГО. В ЧАСТНОСТИ, ПЛАНИРУЕТСЯ ОБНАРОДОВАТЬ СВЕДЕНИЯ О ПРИСВОЕНИИ ЛИЧНО ПРЕЗИДЕНТОМ И ЧЛЕНАМИ ЕГО КОМАНДЫ ТОЛЬКО ИЗ СРЕДСТВ, ПРЕДНАЗНАЧЕННЫХ НА ЗАКУПКУ БОЕПРИПАСОВ, БОЛЕЕ 1,5 МЛРД ДОЛЛ. КРОМЕ ТОГО, ПРЕДУСМАТРИВАЕТСЯ ВСКРЫТЬ СХЕМУ ВЫВОДА ЗА ГРАНИЦУ ДЕНЕЖНОГО ДОВОЛЬСТВИЯ 130 ТЫС. ПОГИБШИХ УКРАИНСКИХ ВОЕННОСЛУЖАЩИХ, КОТОРЫЕ ПРОДОЛЖАЮТ ЧИСЛИТЬСЯ ПРОХОДЯЩИМИ СЛУЖБУ НА ПЕРЕДОВОЙ. НАМЕЧАЕТСЯ ТАКЖЕ ПРИДАТЬ ОГЛАСКЕ ФАКТЫ ПРИЧАСТНОСТИ "ВЕРХОВНОГО ГЛАВНОКОМАНДУЮЩЕГО УКРАИНЫ" К МНОГОЧИСЛЕННЫМ СЛУЧАЯМ ПРОДАЖИ КРУПНЫХ ПАРТИЙ БЕЗВОЗМЕЗДНО ПЕРЕДАННЫХ КИЕВУ ЗАПАДНЫХ ВВТ РАДИКАЛЬНЫМ ГРУППИРОВКАМ В СТРАНАХ АФРИКИ.

НР 26 РЕЗИДЕНТ СВР ДЖОН 30.01.25 22.50

СВР РОССИИ  
СНЯТИЕ КОПИЙ ВОСПРЕЩАЕТСЯ

РАССЕКРЕЧЕНО

СЕКРЕТНО  
ЭКЗ № 1

Ш И Ф Р Т Е Л Е Г Р А М М А № 02/024



08.02.2025 10:20

ТОВ. СЕРГЕЕВУ

О ГОТОВЯЩИХСЯ КИЕВОМ АНТИРОССИЙСКИХ ПРОВОКАЦИЯХ

ПО ПОСТУПАЮЩИМ ДАННЫМ, СПЕЦСЛУЖБЫ КИЕВСКОГО РЕЖИМА ПРИ СОДЕЙСТВИИ БРИТАНСКИХ КУРАТОРОВ ГОТОВЯТСЯ ОСУЩЕСТВИТЬ СЕРИЮ РЕЗОНАНСНЫХ АНТИРОССИЙСКИХ ПРОВОКАЦИЙ, ПРИЗВАННЫХ ВЫНЕСТИ БОЕВЫЕ ДЕЙСТВИЯ ДАЛЕКО ЗА ПРЕДЕЛЫ УКРАИНЫ И ВОСПРЕПЯТСТВОВАТЬ ПРОЦЕССУ МИРНОГО УРЕГУЛИРОВАНИЯ.

ПРЕДПОЛАГАЕТСЯ, В ЧАСТНОСТИ, ИСПОЛЬЗОВАТЬ ИМЕЮЩИЕСЯ У ВСУ МОРСКИЕ МИНЫ РОССИЙСКОГО И СОВЕТСКОГО ОБРАЗЦА ДЛЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ПОДРЫВА ИНОСТРАННЫХ СУДОВ В АКВАТОРИИ БАЛТИЙСКОГО МОРЯ. ОТВЕТСТВЕННОСТЬ ЗА ЭТО БУДЕТ ВОЗЛОЖЕНА НА МОСКВУ. ПО РАСЧЕТАМ УКРАИНСКИХ СПЕЦСЛУЖБ, ПОДОБНЫЕ АКЦИИ ПОДТОЛКНУТ РУКОВОДСТВО НАТОВСКИХ СТРАН К РЕШЕНИЮ ЗАКРЫТЬ РОССИИ ВЫХОД В БАЛТИЙСКОЕ МОРЕ ПОД ПРЕДЛОГОМ ОБЕСПЕЧЕНИЯ БЕЗОПАСНОСТИ МОРСКОГО СУДОХОДСТВА. ЦЕЛЬ КИЕВА - ПОПЫТАТЬСЯ ВТЯНУТЬ СЕВЕРОАТЛАНТИЧЕСКИЙ АЛЬЯНС В ПРЯМОЙ ВООРУЖЕННЫЙ КОНФЛИКТ С РФ.

ПАРАЛЛЕЛЬНО ГУР МО УКРАИНЫ ВО ВЗАИМОДЕЙСТВИИ СО СПЕЦСЛУЖБАМИ РЯДА ЕВРОПЕЙСКИХ СТРАН ГОТОВИТ НАПАДЕНИЯ НА ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛЕЙ РОССИЙСКОЙ ОППОЗИЦИИ И БЕЖАВШИХ ИЗ РОССИИ ПРЕДПРИНИМАТЕЛЕЙ, ПРОЖИВАЮЩИХ ЗА РУБЕЖОМ. В КАЧЕСТВЕ ИСПОЛНИТЕЛЕЙ НАМЕЧЕНО ПРИВЛЕКАТЬ ВЫХОДЦЕВ ИЗ ГОСУДАРСТВ АЗИИ И БЛИЖНЕГО ВОСТОКА. ЗА УЧАСТИЕ В АКЦИЯХ ПРЕДЛАГАЮТСЯ ВОЗНАГРАЖДЕНИЯ В РАЗМЕРЕ ДО 20 ТЫС. ДОЛЛ. ОБЯЗАТЕЛЬНЫМ УСЛОВИЕМ ДЛЯ ИСПОЛНИТЕЛЯ В СЛУЧАЕ АРЕСТА ЯВЛЯЕТСЯ ВОЗЛОЖЕНИЕ ВИНЫ НА РОССИЙСКИЕ СПЕЦСЛУЖБЫ, ЯКОБЫ ПО УКАЗКЕ КОТОРЫХ ГОТОВИЛИСЬ ЭТИ АТАКИ.

НР 41 РЕЗИДЕНТ СВР СТОУН 07.02.25 21.20



СВР РОССИИ  
СНЯТИЕ КОПИЙ ВОСПРЕЩАЕТСЯ

РАСЕКРЕЧЕНО

СЕКРЕТНО  
ЭКЗ № 1

Ш И Ф Р Т Е Л Е Г Р А М М А № 02/143



18.02.2025 06:40

ТОВ. СЕРГЕЕВУ

О ВОЗМОЖНЫХ УКРАИНСКИХ ТЕРАКТАХ В ЕВРОПЕ

ПО ПОСТУПАЮЩЕЙ ИНФОРМАЦИИ, В ЕВРОПЕЙСКИХ СТОЛИЦАХ С ТРЕВОГОЙ ОТМЕЧАЮТ КРАЙНЕЕ НЕЖЕЛАНИЕ КИЕВА ИДТИ НА МИРНЫЕ ДОГОВОРЕННОСТИ С МОСКВОЙ, ЕСЛИ ЭТО ПОТРЕБУЕТ ОТ УКРАИНСКИХ ВЛАСТЕЙ "ЧРЕЗМЕРНЫХ УСТУПОК". КАК СООБЩАЮТ ИСТОЧНИКИ, БЛИЗКИЕ К ШТАБ-КВАРТИРЕ ЕС И БЛОКУ НАТО, ДЛЯ СРЬВА БЕСПЕРСПЕКТИВНОГО, С ТОЧКИ ЗРЕНИЯ УКРАИНСКИХ ВЛАСТЕЙ, ПЕРЕГОВОРНОГО ПРОЦЕССА РЕЖИМ В. ЗЕЛЕНСКОГО ГОТОВ ПОЙТИ НА КРАЙНИЕ МЕРЫ. ОДИН ИЗ РАССМАТРИВАЕМЫХ ВАРИАНТОВ ПРЕДПОЛАГАЕТ ПРОВЕДЕНИЕ СЕРИИ ТЕРАКТОВ ПРОТИВ ДИПЛОМАТИЧЕСКИХ ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛЬСТВ РФ В ЕВРОПЕЙСКИХ СТРАНАХ В РАСЧЕТЕ НА РЕЗКОЕ ОБОСТРЕНИЕ КОНФЛИКТА.

ИМЕЮЩИЕСЯ ДАННЫЕ УКАЗЫВАЮТ, ЧТО С НАИБОЛЬШЕЙ ВЕРОЯТНОСТЬЮ СПЕЦСЛУЖБЫ УКРАИНЫ, РАБОТАЮЩИЕ В ПЛОТНОМ КОНТАКТЕ С БРИТАНСКИМИ КУРАТОРАМИ, ПОПЫТАЮТСЯ ОСУЩЕСТВИТЬ ПОДОБНЫЕ АТАКИ В ГЕРМАНИИ, СТРАНАХ БАЛТИИ И СКАНДИНАВИИ, ПОСКОЛЬКУ СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВО УКАЗАННЫХ ГОСУДАРСТВ С РОССИЕЙ НАХОДИТСЯ НА САМОМ НИЗКОМ В ЕС УРОВНЕ. "НА РУКУ" ОРГАНИЗАТОРАМ ТЕРАКТОВ ИГРАЕТ И ФАКТИЧЕСКОЕ ОТСУТСТВИЕ ДИАЛОГА МЕЖДУ БРЮССЕЛЕМ И МОСКВОЙ ПО ЛИНИИ СПЕЦСЛУЖБ НА АНТИТЕРРОРИСТИЧЕСКОМ НАПРАВЛЕНИИ, ЧТО НЕ ПОЗВОЛИТ ОПЕРАТИВНО ОРГАНИЗОВАТЬ РАССЛЕДОВАНИЕ.

НЕ ИСКЛЮЧЕНО, ЧТО ПОМИМО НАЗВАННЫХ СТРАН В КАЧЕСТВЕ ЦЕЛЕЙ ДЛЯ ТЕРАКТА МОГУТ БЫТЬ ВЫБРАНЫ РОССИЙСКИЕ ОБЪЕКТЫ НА ТЕРРИТОРИИ СЛОВАКИИ ИЛИ ВЕНГРИИ, ЧТО, КАК ОТМЕЧАЕТСЯ, СУЛИТ КИЕВУ "ДОПОЛНИТЕЛЬНУЮ ВЫГОДУ" В ВИДЕ ДИСКРЕДИТАЦИИ УЧАСТНИКОВ ЕС, ЗАНИМАЮЩИХ ПО УКРАИНСКОМУ КОНФЛИКТУ ОСОБУЮ ПОЗИЦИЮ.

НР 92 РЕЗИДЕНТ СВР МАРАТ 17.02.25 23.50

СВР РОССИИ  
СНЯТИЕ КОПИЙ ВОСПРЕЩАЕТСЯ

РАСЕКРЕЧЕНО

СЕКРЕТНО  
ЭКЗ № 1

Ш И Ф Р Т Е Л Е Г Р А М М А № 02/187



25.02.2025 08:50

ТОВ. СЕРГЕЕВУ

ОБ АКТИВИЗАЦИИ ПОДРЫВНОЙ РАБОТЫ ЕС В ГРУЗИИ

ПО ИМЕЮЩИМСЯ ДАННЫМ, РУКОВОДСТВО ЕВРОСОЮЗА НАЦЕЛЕНО ЛЮБОЙ ЦЕНОЙ ВЕРНУТЬ ГРУЗИЮ "НА ПУТЬ ДЕМОКРАТИИ И ЕВРОИНТЕГРАЦИИ". В БРЮССЕЛЕ НЕ МОГУТ ДОПУСТИТЬ ПОТЕРИ ЭТОГО "ВАЖНОГО ОПЛОТА ЗАПАДНОГО ВЛИЯНИЯ В ЗАКАВКАЗЬ".

С УЧЕТОМ ПРОИСХОДЯЩЕГО В МИРЕ НАЦИОНАЛ-КОНСЕРВАТИВНОГО РАЗВОРОТА ВЛАСТИ ЕС ПРИНЯЛИ РЕШЕНИЕ ПЕРЕХОДИТЬ В РАБОТЕ С ГРУЗИНСКИМИ ПОЛИТИКАМИ И ОБЩЕСТВОМ ОТ УЖЕ НЕ ДЕЙСТВУЮЩИХ ЛИБЕРАЛЬНЫХ ОБЕЩАНИЙ К ПОЛИТИЧЕСКОМУ ДАВЛЕНИЮ. ПЕРЕД ЕСОВСКИМИ ЧИНОВНИКАМИ ПОСТАВЛЕНА ЗАДАЧА АКТИВНЕЕ РАБОТАТЬ НАД СПЛОЧЕНИЕМ ОППОЗИЦИОННЫХ ГРУЗИНСКИХ ПАРТИЙ "ЕДИНОЕ НАЦИОНАЛЬНОЕ ДВИЖЕНИЕ", "АХАЛИ", "ЗА ГРУЗИЮ", "ЕВРОПЕЙСКАЯ ГРУЗИЯ", "ГИРЧИ - БОЛЬШЕ СВОБОДЫ". ОНИ ПРИЗВАНЫ ОБРАЗОВАТЬ "ЕДИНЫЙ КУЛАК", НАПРАВЛЕННЫЙ ПРОТИВ ПРАВЯЩЕЙ "ГРУЗИНСКОЙ МЕЧТЫ".

ПАРАЛЛЕЛЬНО ПРЕДПРИНИМАЮТСЯ ПОПЫТКИ РАЗВЕРТЫВАНИЯ В ГРУЗИИ УЛИЧНОЙ ПРОТЕСТНОЙ АКТИВНОСТИ, КОТОРАЯ ДОЛЖНА СТАТЬ "ДОКАЗАТЕЛЬСТВОМ УСТОЙЧИВОСТИ ПРОЕВРОПЕЙСКИХ ВЗГЛЯДОВ СРЕДИ ПРОСТЫХ ГРУЗИН". ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛЬСТВУ ЕС В ТБИЛИСИ ВЫДЕЛЕНЫ ЗНАЧИТЕЛЬНЫЕ СРЕДСТВА НА ПОДДЕРЖАНИЕ И КООРДИНАЦИЮ МАНИФЕСТАЦИЙ. КАЖДОМУ ИЗ УЧАСТНИКОВ АНТИПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННЫХ ВЫСТУПЛЕНИЙ НАМЕЧЕНО ВЫПЛАЧИВАТЬ ДО 120 ЕВРО ЗА ДЕНЬ "РАБОТЫ". НА СЛУЧАЙ ПОПЫТОК ГРУЗИНСКИХ ВЛАСТЕЙ ЗАБЛОКИРОВАТЬ ЕСОВСКИЕ КАНАЛЫ ФИНАНСИРОВАНИЯ ПОДРЫВНЫХ АКЦИЙ ПРОРАБАТЫВАЕТСЯ ВАРИАНТ ДОСТАВКИ НАЛИЧНОЙ ВАЛЮТЫ В ТБИЛИСИ ИЗ ПОСОЛЬСТВ СТРАН ЕС В АРМЕНИИ.

В ОТДЕЛЬНОЕ НАПРАВЛЕНИЕ РАБОТЫ ВЫДЕЛЕНО "ФОРМИРОВАНИЕ АНТИВЛАСТНЫХ НАСТРОЕНИЙ У НАИБОЛЕЕ ДИНАМИЧНОЙ ЧАСТИ МЕСТНОЙ МОЛОДЕЖИ" - БЛОГЕРОВ, ЖУРНАЛИСТОВ, СПЕЦИАЛИСТОВ В IT-СФЕРЕ И ИХ КОЛЛЕГ ИЗ ЧИСЛА РОССИЙСКИХ РЕЛОКАНТОВ. ЧЕРЕЗ ПОДКОНТРОЛЬНЫЕ БРЮССЕЛЮ ГРУЗИНСКИЕ И ЕВРОПЕЙСКИЕ СМИ И НПО ДО НИХ БУДУТ ДОВОДИТЬСЯ ТЕЗИСЫ О "ПРЕИМУЩЕСТВАХ СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВА С ЕДИНОЙ ЕВРОПОЙ И ТУПИКОВОСТИ ИЗБРАННОГО "ГРУЗИНСКОЙ МЕЧТОЙ" ПРОРОССИЙСКОГО ВЕКТОРА ПОЛИТИКИ".

НР 106 РЕЗИДЕНТ СВР ФРЭНК 24.02.25 19.10



# How far is it to victory?

Text: Evgeny Poddubny, war correspondent, Hero of Russia

On February 24, 2022, a new and most important era began for our Fatherland, even by the standards of all the historical upheavals that have happened to our country. This is not just the date of the beginning of the SVO — a great war, such as Europe has not seen since the end of the Great Patriotic War. A war for justice, the security of Russia and the well-being of our future generations. Three years ago, thanks to a whole complex of circumstances and phenomena, we managed to interrupt a rather contradictory, but categorically awkward and destructive for our own future, state of uncertainty in the goals and meanings of existence, in

which we have been not even since the collapse of the USSR, but since the late Soviet period.

The special military operation has given us answers to questions without which it is impossible to count on any successful and sustainable development in the long term. And the price for this has not yet been determined. But it is already clear that it is high, so failing to take advantage of such a historic chance would be criminal. The goals of the SVO and our struggle have long been clearly formulated by the President. They are, of course, much broader than just a military

victory, although the success of the struggle for a just world order and our security depends on this. But victory on the ground over the enemy is impossible without changing ourselves in the most serious way.

The SVO has become an X-ray for our society, showing everything as it is with medical precision. Many postulates and concepts have finally regained their only true meaning. First of all, this concerns betrayal. Over the past 30 years, they have tried to disguise it in every way possible and invented every definition. Unfortunately, it is betrayal that has often brought our society to a critical state. Qwing to the efforts of enemies within the country, a whole horde of renegades of all stripes has been raised, who are still being used to cause damage. They even use those whom we considered ideological, but generally harmless opponents, incapable of terrorist attacks or sabotage. The murder of Maxim Fomin (Vladlen Tatarsky) is one of the confirmations of this.

The current events have naturally painted with a marker those who have sold the memory of their ancestors and the future of their children, who contribute to attempts to weaken the Russian state, who are guilty of the death of our fellow citizens. Traitors were forced to show their true faces — without the makeup of patriotism and re-

spectability. They, many of them during their lifetime, have stood in the same row with Vlasov, Kamin-sky, Bessonov and become truly pathetic, and even the most indiscriminate and naive can see this. Such a conquest cannot be missed or devalued. Betrayal cannot have an acceptable form, it must face zero tolerance from the state and the society regardless of the circumstances.

Another important factor that arose due to the fact that we began an active fight against the enemy is a lesson in the West's true attitude towards Russia and its citizens, which has been received by all who were charmed by the "partners". The cancel culture has become a cold shower for those Russians who considered themselves a full-fledged part of the West and linked the future of their children with the Western world. Moreover, this circumstance equally concerns both the elites and the new bourgeoisie, who dreamed of giving their offspring a European or American future. The main thing is that it should be "not like here".

With the beginning of a new stage in relations between Russia and the West, they were quickly shown their place, which turned out to be extremely unpleasant and humiliating for them. Some tried to repent and publicly demonstrate loyalty, but this did not help, for which, by the way, special thanks to our enemy. We ourselves could hardly have explained it more clearly. In the countries of the so-called first world, they are good at dividing people into classes, to forget about this is childishly stupid. However, many have forgotten.

The SVO has reminded us that we can only count on ourselves and we cannot be ineffective in any area.

The number of restrictions imposed against us and the list of countries included in the anti-Russian coalition motivate us very well. In general, we should be thankful for the sanctions. Without such pressure, we would have continued to live for many years in the illusion that everything we do not have will be sold to us, so spending energy on our own development is nonrational.

We live in an era of mass, everyday heroism at the front. What war correspondents and the soldiers themselves tell us is only a small part of the enormous feat of the Russian soldier. And this circumstance motivates the rear, that part of the society that, thanks to the army's efforts, remains aloof from the hardships of war. This circumstance gives us the strength to work better, to be more honest and, of course, to empathize. These are all tiny grains of those extremely important social processes that make up our future Victory. There is hope that this process of crystallization can no longer be stopped.

We are fighting for the independence and well-being of the country in which our children and our children's children will live. Victory in this fight is not just the defeat of the Kyiv regime. It is a fight for returning to the roots, for sincerity and justice within our society, for a system of values in which not money is the measure of success, but creation and work for the common good. Many fighters go on the attack precisely for this.

Now the topic of negotiations is once again dominating the news about the SVO. For those who are dissatisfied with the new state of affairs, this gives rise to hopes for Russia's return to a state of uncertainty, to pre-war realities. But it seems to me that the price that has

already been paid for the answers received since the beginning of the hot phase of the conflict is a reliable guarantee that the reverse transformation is impossible. As for negotiations, this is a normal part of any war, the question is how they end.

Let me give you examples of messages that come in daily from my comrades from all directions:

*"Brother, hello. We're fighting hard. We're shooting down everything that flies at once. The "Germans" have received reinforcements, about 50 mercenaries. English-speaking. But most of them were annihilated on the approaches. We'll bury them all here..."*

*"We're working. Two strongpoints were burned to hell today. We found hidden FPV crews, and immediately burned them too. Reinforcements were brought by American "boxes" and they didn't even have time to unload. Our drone operators — what skilled guys!..."*

*"For the people in Razumnoe, whom the bastards killed today, I blew to hell all their drone-operator station. And I'll destroy all such objects every day, as long as I have something to destroy them with..."*

*"I wish ye good health! We have a whole delegation of foreign military tourists here. Together with the DIU men. Now we have normal trophy optics and beautiful vehicles. Let the tourists lie in the ground..."*

I mean there should be no illusions. They won't leave us alone. What you can't take away from the enemy is determination. And the goal of the collective West has long been clear. Here, too, even the most naive have no illusions left. Accordingly, we are at the beginning of a rather winding and difficult path. 🚩







## Formula for success in intelligence

In December 2024, on the eve of the Day of National Security Services Officers, an event was held at the headquarters of the SVR of Russia in honor of young employees who received awards for high performance in their professional activities. During the event, which was attended by the Director and members of the Collegium of the Service, warm and encouraging words were addressed to the youth: "We were not mistaken in you. You have succeeded as professionals. With people like you, one can go into intelligence". The "Razvedchik" asked the young people how they came to the Service and tried to derive a formula for success in intelligence.

**Nikolay:** I was born and raised in a small town on the Volga. I graduated from the institute there with a degree in international relations and almost immediately decided that service in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as a diplomat, was too little for me. I wanted to find a job where, as they joke on social networks, you don't have to work, because it's the cause of your life, into which you invest 100% and do it out of your own great desire, out of love, so to speak. This is, perhaps, the first component of my success in intelligence.

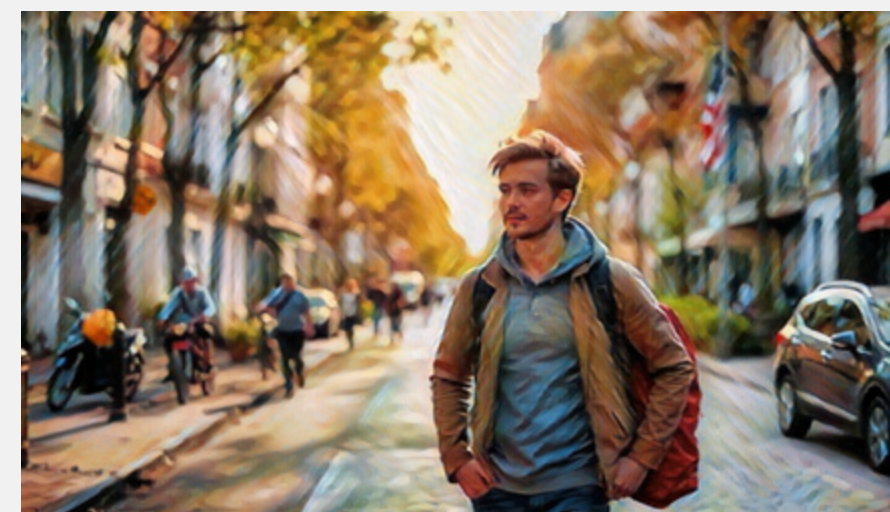


The second, I think, it will be reading. They say that there isn't a person more interesting than one who has read a thousand books. I would rephrase it: you cannot become a successful intelligence officer if you have read less than a thousand books and do not continue to grow daily, absorbing new information.

You know, among my relatives and friends, who live on the Volga River, there are many who like fishing. I myself love fishing. I believe that the work of an intelligence officer can be compared to this type of leisure. Our contingent for recruiting is a river into which we patiently throw our "tackle" time after time. Sometimes the waves of fate bring nothing but endless fatigue, but there are days when you manage to get a serious catch — recruit valuable sources of information, get hold of secret documents. The fruits of our efforts are not always immediately visible. You can "row the oars" for years before you notice a slight movement of the line and float. In addition, as Ernest Hemingway wrote, "it is not enough to catch a fish — you still have to swim to shore with it".

I also want to emphasize that it is almost impossible to develop the necessary skills in our business without good mentors. Having talked to them, having learned about their experience, I believed in myself too. I realized that operational luck, an operational "catch" is, as a rule, not just a play of chance, but the result of painstaking work and persistence.

**Andrey:** In my hometown of Kaluga, the theoretician of astronautics, the outstanding inventor K.E. Tsiolkovsky lived for 43 years. His biography and scientific legacy, the trends, as we would say today, that he started out around the world, made a huge impression on me. Since childhood, I wanted to connect my life with sci-



ence and technology. At the same time, I had to continue my dynasty — my grandfather reached Budapest, was awarded the medal "For Courage", my father is an officer. I found, as it seems to me now, the right way: after graduating from the Military Academy of the Strategic Missile Forces named after Peter the Great, I passed all the tests and was enrolled in the intelligence service.

Today, the team I work into is doing everything possible (and sometimes, in my opinion, the impossible) so that the wishes of our Western "non-partners" about the strategic defeat of Russia never come true. We are developing new domains of electronic intelligence, working in a field where you need to improvise a lot, start from

scratch. There are no textbooks, no manuals. And this is a colossal incentive for self-development, a challenge, if you like: to resist, to seize the data. And as a super task — to bring our Victory in the in the special military operation (SVO) as fast as possible. Is any other motivation needed?

If you try to make up a formula for success in intelligence, you must remember that, in addition to unknown elements, there are constants in it. To them I would add mentoring as a relay of experience and traditions, as well as youth, although someone may disagree with me. In my opinion, it is youth that is capable of mastering and applying all the experience in a world that is changing at cosmic speeds today.

### Suvorov's management

The great Russian commander A.V. Suvorov used to say: "The duty of a superior is to encourage winners and report the commendable deeds of subordinates to a higher authority". He himself rarely punished soldiers, but always rewarded them for specific successes, emphasizing that those who distinguished themselves in action received honor and glory. In those days, it was common to award orders and medals for "courage, bravery and fearlessness", "diligence and zeal", "wise dispositions and art", and "reasonable leadership". This allowed for the development of competition and initiative, the formation of unique personalities, "miracle heroes", and the promotion of the best of the best to the highest levels of the military hierarchy.





SVR of Russia badge  
«For Operational valor».  
Awarded for significant results in  
human intelligence and operative work  
attained in top priority directions of  
intelligence activity.



SVR of Russia medal «For Distinction».  
considerable results in operative and  
professional activity.



SVR of Russia medal  
«For Diligence and Benefit».  
Awarded for high personal  
achievements in professional  
activity.

**Alexander:** My family consists of marine scouts. And I'm not talking about military brotherhood now. My grandparents, dad and mom — all served in this branch of the military and wore black berets. Therefore, my destiny from childhood seemed obvious — the successor of a glorious dynasty. I graduated from the Naval Academy named after N.G. Kuznetsov. But after that there were several sharp turns: I became a journalist-analyst, worked for a couple of years for different media. And then a new turn in the genre of "you can't escape your fate" — an invitation to the Academy of Foreign Intelligence named after Yu.V. Andropov.

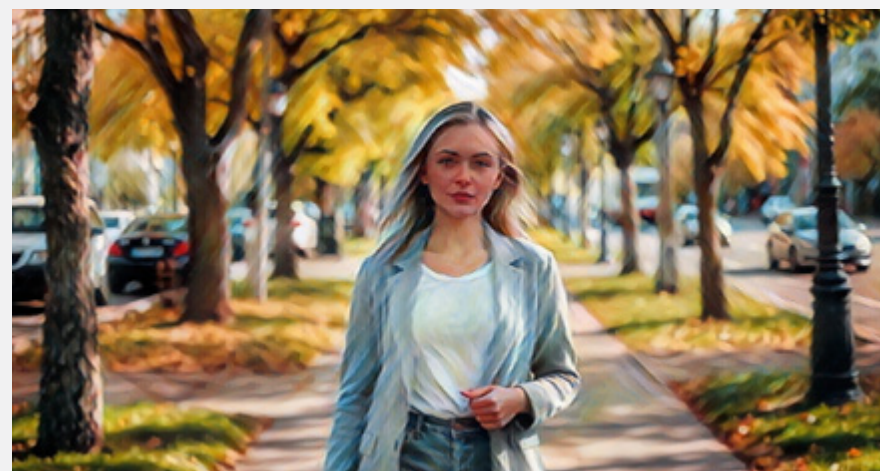
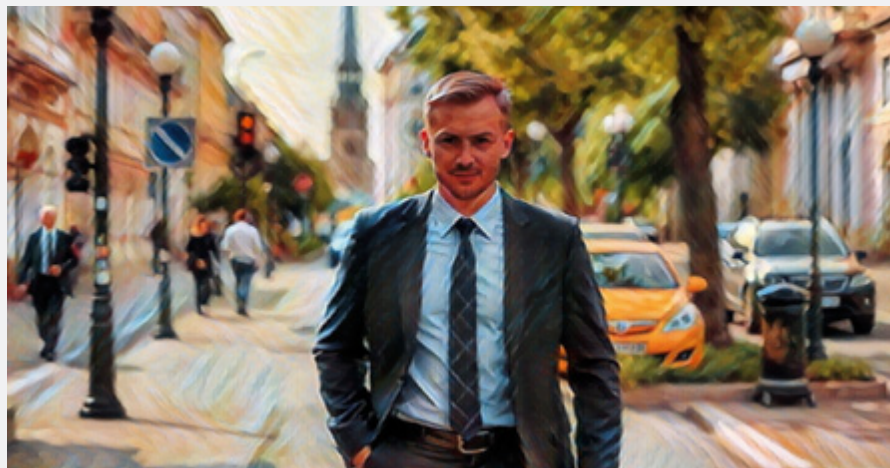
An interesting incident happened to me at the final interview upon enrollment. I wanted to study a special, difficult language. They threatened me that I would not cope, they offered to take some standard one of the six international ones. And then I spoke out: I passionately proved to the members of the credentials committee that I could, insisted on my own. I understood, of course, that this was probably not accepted in the Service, that most likely I would not achieve anything, and they simply would not enroll me in intelligence. Surprisingly, they not only heard me, but as a result of the interview they even promoted me in rank. And this became an excellent motivation for me, which,

perhaps, still works: intelligence is wisdom, the ability to listen and hear everyone, and most importantly — not to lose your objectives.

I can't talk about my current work, including the tasks that I was lucky enough to solve in the line of foreign counterintelligence in one European country, for which, in fact, I was given a high award. I will note one thing: this work is difficult and intense, but extremely necessary and very interesting.

And as for the formula for success... Frontline intelligence officer, twice Hero of the Soviet Union Viktor Leonov (received his second Hero Star at the age of 29) has already written everything in his famous book "Get Ready for a Feat Today", and I completely agree with him. The main thing, of course, is willpower. Where there is willpower, there will be all the other components of a successful intelligence officer: courage, knowledge, discipline, physical training, initiative, friendship...

**Lyubov:** You may not believe it, but I was dreaming of serving in intelligence back in my school years. It's hard to say what motivated me. I think it was everything at once: the chronicle of intelligence officers' deeds from the books and magazines I read, and films about intelligence, and even



more so, the love for the Motherland my parents instilled in me. I studied my country by traveling through it — few people can remain indifferent in this case. My father used to say: "To serve your country is a special honour". You know, he really wanted a boy who would become a defender of the Fatherland, but he got an officer daughter.

I chose the history faculty of Lomonosov Moscow State University as one of the most suitable areas for training analysts. However, my way to intelligence was not obvious — guys were invited to interviews through the military department, and I had to look for "that very door". Then there were long checks, forms and questionnaires that required many hours to fill out, but I can definitely say — it was worth it.

I specialize in the Middle East, which is associated with additional difficulties: during my business trips I work mainly in Muslim countries, where the attitude towards the weaker sex is appropriate. But all of these are myths if you truly believe in yourself and see the goal. After all, any work, be it archaeological excavations or a business trip abroad, first of all is about people.

If you calculate success in intelligence according to a certain formula, then people are its gravitational constant.



coming data. But the situation abroad, in one of the European countries, was such that I had to keep an eye out all the time. You can't even go to the store calmly; you are constantly waiting for a provocation in the genre of "all Russians are murderers". Lines from Charles Dickens come to mind: "It was the best of times; It was the worst of times".

I tried to work on myself, developed perseverance, the ability to concentrate on solving problems, and not to get distracted by trivial matters. I am sure that this colossal experience, the honor of participating in defending Russia's interests, the feeling of involvement in the development and adoption of the most important state decisions, the exhilaration of victory in an intellectual struggle over a strong and insidious enemy will be an excellent motivation for further service for many years.

You know, the formula for success in intelligence assumes some kind of solution, doesn't it? Everything that should be to the right of the equal sign in this formula is the result of the coordinated actions of all participants in this unique, highly effective mechanism called the Foreign Intelligence Service of the Russian Federation. And being a part of it is a great trust and a huge honor! 🇷🇺



# HUMAN ATTENTION

## and fascinating facts about it

Text: Marina Novikova

Being attentive to everything around you is one of the main tasks of an intelligence officer. Attentiveness allows you to identify threats in time, including surveillance, quickly respond to them, make the right decisions and act. But this is also a useful skill for everyday life. Today we will try to figure out how to maintain and develop it, given that in the era of the dominance of digital technologies, attention suffers especially. And, of course, we will teach you how to focus on the main thing and train attentiveness so as not to miss the important things.

### What is attention?

This term is commonly understood as the focus of human consciousness on one or more simultaneously possible objects or phenomena. In simple words, this is an increased interest in an object in order to obtain some data about it.

The level or degree of attention depends on the coordinated work of all its **COMPONENTS**:



If at least one of the components is poorly developed, the overall level of attentiveness suffers. A person with well-trained attention can distribute it and concentrate on one object/activity for a long time, is able to quickly switch between them, and is resistant to any irritants.

**40%**

this is how much concentration decreases when multitasking.

**50%**

of people can't focus on a problem for more than 8 minutes.

**60%**

check their mobile phone at least every 10 minutes.

**70%**

of people forget other people's names immediately after hearing them.

**80%**

of workers cannot help being distracted by extraneous matters.

**90%**

admitted to daydreaming during business meetings.





**Fact** Various irritants, including noise, discomfort, internal anxiety or dissatisfaction with something, can weaken your attention, significantly reduce its concentration and, as a result, negatively affect your performance.

**Recommendation.** Create a comfortable workspace. To do this, install “noise filters” both inside and around you, get rid of distracting factors. If possible, turn off notifications on electronic devices, relax, spend some time in silence. If you are bothered by racing thoughts, write them down on paper and put them aside so that you can return to them later and calmly analyze them. This will help the brain systematize all the incoming information that it is trying to “digest” at the same time, then focus on one task and solve it effectively.

**Fact** Each person, according to their internal clock, has their own peak of activity, when they are most productive. Some people find it easier to work in the first half of the day, while others, on the contrary, find it easier to work closer to the evening. It is advisable to take this into account, and not only for you, but also for your superiors.

**Recommendation.** Try to find out what time of day your brain is most active, and plan to do the most important and difficult tasks during these hours. Such resource management will reduce fatigue and increase work efficiency.

**"If you wash a cup, think about the cup".**

Chinese popular wisdom

**Fact** Our senses allow us to receive important information about our environment.

**Recommendation.** Develop your perception, learn to focus on each sense separately. This will allow you to notice much more in the world around you, be it sounds, smells, textures or visual elements. With regular training, you can significantly improve your ability to see and hear everything around you.

**Fact** Interesting, vibrant events automatically capture our attention, distracting us from our current tasks.

**Recommendation.** Try to talk to your inner self and explain to yourself why you can't be distracted right now, but need to focus on solving the task at hand. If the work seems boring and routine, find new, non-standard ways and conditions for doing it, as well as personal benefits — additional incentives that will help in professional development.

**Fact** Attention is a limited resource. Performing multiple tasks at once can result in a decrease in the efficiency of each task.

**Recommendation.** Pick one task and finish it completely or to a specific, predetermined point before moving on to the next one. The Pomodoro Technique, a time management method that involves dividing your work into short, focused periods (usually 25 minutes) followed by a short break, can also be helpful here. This will help keep your mind sharp and prevent burnout, ensuring sustained focus and productivity.

## Express attention-training from "Razvedchik"

- ✓ Try paying attention to certain things. For example, determine which seat in a cafe you should take to control the situation in the room, or count the exact number of people in the establishment. Let's make it more difficult: how many people in blue clothes do you see at the moment?
- ✓ On your way to work or home, focus on the sounds around you, then pick one of them and try to listen only to it. Then set yourself another task: notice all the triangular objects around you. Try doing such exercises daily and for at least five minutes — it is not as easy as it seems.
- ✓ Practice attentive listening. Conversations with other people are the very moment when our lack of concentration is especially noticeable. Without interrupting the interlocutor, try to summarize periodically everything he or she has said with the following connecting words: “okay”, “I understand”, and “yes, you are right”. This will not only train your attentiveness, but also show your involvement in the conversation, which will make you a pleasant and interesting person in the eyes of others.





# Female intelligence officers

On the occasion of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great Victory, "Razvedchik" has prepared a series of materials dedicated to the activities of national foreign intelligence during the war years. Taking into account the fact that this issue is published on the eve of March 8, we dedicate the first publication to the female intelligence officers who made an invaluable contribution to the defeat of the enemy.



For the officers, both male and female, of the Soviet foreign intelligence, the Great Patriotic War began long before June 22. Back in April 1941, one of the most experienced female career intelligence officers, Elizaveta Yulievna Zarubina-Gorskaya (code name "Vardo"), arrived in the capital of Hitler's Germany with a particularly special mis-

sion. A merchant's daughter from Tsarist Bessarabia, who had graduated from the universities of Paris and Vienna in the 1920s and spoke several European languages, she volunteered to serve in the Foreign Department (INO) of the OGPU. In the 1930s she and her husband, the chekist intelligence officer Vasily Mikhailovich Zarubin ("Maxim"), un-

der the cover of a married couple of Czechoslovakian-born merchants, successfully worked in Denmark and France, maintaining contacts with valuable sources.

In Berlin, in the spring of 1941, Elizaveta managed to reestablish contact with a high-ranking Nazi diplomat's wife, who had been recruited

by the security services in Moscow and who subsequently provided important information about Germany. And a few weeks before the outbreak of the war, Zarubina reestablished contact with a cipher officer at the German Federal Foreign Office. She caught him on his way to work on a suburban platform near Berlin and immediately received vital infor-

mation about the Third Reich's preparations for an attack on the USSR. That same day, an urgent telegram landed on the desk of the Head of the Foreign Intelligence Service Pavel Fitin, who was preparing a report for the country's leadership.

With the outbreak of the war, Zarubina returned to Moscow along

with other Soviet diplomats via Bulgaria and Turkey, but six months later, she and her husband left for the United States on a new intelligence mission. Working in the secretariat of the USSR Embassy in Washington, Elizaveta Yulievna regularly contacted and received valuable information from individuals who volunteered to assist Soviet intelli-





The Zarubin couple



Z. I. Voskresenskaya-Rybkina

gence from among the employees of American government agencies, including the State Department and the Department of the Treasury. On their return to Moscow at the end of 1944, Zarubina was awarded the Order of the Red Star, and her husband was awarded the Order of Lenin and the Order of the Red Banner.

All the secret information, that intelligence officers abroad had obtained at the risk of their lives on the eve of the war and then during the war, was processed day and night by officers of the central apparatus in the Headquarters of the Foreign Intelligence Service (in those days it was located in the Lubyanka building). A significant number of them were women. Few people know that Zoya Ivanovna Voskresenskaya, a popular children's writer in the post-war USSR, was deputy head of station in Finland in the mid-1930s, and before the war she held the position of deputy head of the German Department of the Foreign Intelligence Service. It was Lieu-

tenant Voskresenskaya-Rybkina ("Irina") who, in June 1941, prepared a report for P.M. Fitin on Hitler's full readiness to attack the USSR. On June 17, in the Kremlin, Pavel Mikhailovich personally presented this report to Joseph Stalin, who instructed the 33-year-old chief of intelligence to double-check the information obtained. As we all know, the war began four days later.

Soon after, Zoya Ivanovna joined the Special Group under the NKVD People's Commissar, headed by the legendary Pavel Sudoplatov, whom she had known from their work together in Finland. In July-August 1941 Rybkina was preparing the first chekist-partisan detachments for infiltration behind the front line, and in the fall, at the height of the Nazi offensive on Moscow, she intended to take the position of track walker on one of the railways in the near German rear.

But fate decided otherwise. At the end of 1941 Zoya Ivanovna together with her husband and col-

league, intelligence officer Boris Arkadyevich Rybkin ("Kim"), left for Stockholm. It would not be an exaggeration to say that it was largely due to their joint efforts that Sweden remained neutral until the end of the war, and that Finland withdrew from the military alliance with Hitler in 1944. It should also be noted that after B.A. Rybkin was recalled to take a leadership position in the Center in July 1943, Zoya Ivanovna worked as head of station at the USSR Embassy in Sweden for nine months.

After retiring in 1955, the experienced intelligence officer began writing children's books, many of which were based on real episodes of work in the "field" (the novel "Consul", the story "Girl in a Stormy Sea"). "Irina" was declassified only at the end of 1980s, and it was only then, at the request of her colleagues, that she began to write her memoirs. The book "Now I Can Tell the Truth. From the Memories of an Intelligence Officer" was first published after her death in 1992.



A. F. Kamayeva



N. V. Troyan

Together with Z.I.Voskresenskaya-Rybkina, several young female officers served in the central intelligence apparatus on the eve of the war. Among them was Anna Kamayeva ("Zina"), who had joined the intelligence service as a Kom-somol recruit in 1939. Before the war she was accepted into the De-

partment of Illegal Intelligence under the command of N.I.Eitingon and P.A.Sudoplatov. In the summer of 1941 she transferred with them to the headquarters of the Special Group, and in December of that year she made her first raid behind the front line as a radio operator for the NKVD intelligence group.

Later, she was assigned to supervise the work of the intelligence officer and partisan Nadezhda Viktorovna Troyan ("Kanskaya"), who was operating behind the front line. It was Troyan and her comrades-in-arms Elena Mazanik and Maria Osipova, who, on September 22, 1943, carried out the "Dramatist" operation worked out in the Lubyanka to liquidate Wilhelm Kube – Hitler-appointed governor of occupied Belarus, who was blown up in his residence in the center of Minsk. In October of the same year these intelligence officers were transported to Moscow, where all three of them were awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. That is when began the friendship between Anna Kamayeva and Nadezhda Troyan that would last for decades. However, there were long breaks in their communication. In 1944-1946 Anna Fyodorovna carried out intelligence missions in Mexico, and from 1948 to 1960 she and her husband, the deep-cover intelligence officer M.I. Filonenko, worked abroad under special conditions.

It is worth noting that Anna Kamayeva, a foreigner according to her cover story, gave birth to two children abroad, but during childbirth she did not reveal herself in any way and did not arouse the suspicions among the local medical staff, although her husband had concerns about this. In the 1960s, after retirement, the Filonenko couple told this story to the writer Yulian Semenov, who used it for the famous plot with the radio operator Kat in the novel and TV series "Seventeen Moments of Spring".



The would-be intelligence officer Anna Kamayeva (in the center) with other graduates of the Special Purpose School. Moscow. Tushino airfield. 1938





Africa de las Heras

During the war years, such legendary intelligence officers as Simona Isaakovna Krimker ("Mira") and Africa de las Heras ("Patria") fought successfully in the combat special detachments of the 4<sup>th</sup> (sabotage) directorate of the NKVD/NKGB of the



S. I. Krimker

USSR. Both served as radio operators in the famous partisan detachment "Pobediteli" ("The Victorious") under the command of the future Heroes of the Soviet Union Dmitry Nikolaevich Medvedev and Nikolay Ivanovich Kuznetsov. The true story



R. R. Sobol

of "Patria", a participant in the Spanish Civil War of 1936-1938, was told by "Razvedchik" in No. 2 (7), 2024. Her comrade Simona Krimker also worked abroad for many years after the Victory in the line of illegal intelligence in Spanish-speaking countries of Latin America.

Speaking of female partisan intelligence officers, it is necessary to mention Raisa Romanovna Sobol. With a basic legal education and professional experience as an investigator in the prosecutor's office, she joined the Economic Department of the OGPU in the late 1920s. In 1930 she was transferred to the Foreign Department (foreign intelligence), where she worked in the same subdivision with Zoya Voskresenskaya. In 1937, after successful missions to France and Germany, Raisa Romanovna became one of the first women to be promoted to a senior position in the intelligence service, being appointed deputy head of the Scandinavian Department. A year later, however, she and her husband were arrested at



E. K. Kaganova-Sudoplatova, I. N. Kaminsky, R. R. Sobol. Moscow. Autumn of 1941

the height of the mass purges. Her husband was shot the same year, and R. R. Sobol was sentenced to eight years in the camps.

In September 1941 she was released from the GULAG and sent to Moscow to serve under P. A. Sudoplatov. With no accommodation or relatives in the capital, Raisa Romanovna spent several weeks in the Sudoplatov's apartment together with other colleagues, including Ivan Nikolaevich Kaminsky, the pre-war head of station in Germany and France.

The SVR archives have a unique photograph taken in the autumn of 1941. It shows three people: career chekist Emma Kaganova-Sudoplatova (the owner of the apartment and Pavel Anatolyevich's wife), Raisa Sobol and Ivan Kaminsky. Only a few months after this photo was taken, I. Kaminsky was transferred to occupied Zhitomir, where he died during an attempted arrest by the Germans in a failed safehouse. P. A. Sudoplatov's wife, remaining in frontline Moscow, took an active

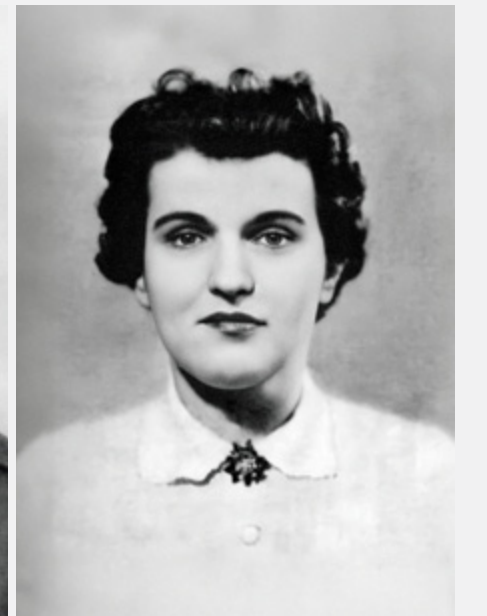
part in the strategic disinformation operation "Monastery" against the German special services. And Raisa Sobol went to supervise the work of chekist intelligence on the Southwestern front.

From autumn 1942 to autumn 1943, Captain Sobol successfully led partisan reconnaissance units in the Smolensk region and was awarded two medals "For Courage" and a medal "Partisan of the Patriotic War" 1st class. After the Victory, however, she was hastily dismissed from the intelligence service. Raisa Romanovna went to Tashkent, where she took up literary work. She returned to Moscow in 1953 already as a popular writer under the pseudonym "Irina Guro", which she had used since the war (*an excerpt from the collection of her stories "In Spite of All Deaths" is published in the column "Literary Salon"*). Later, it was Sobol who helped her friend Zoya Voskresenskaya and then her former chief Pavel Sudoplatov to make their literary debuts.



Spouses Morris and Leontine Cohen

Our story about female intelligence officers in wartime would be incomplete without mentioning the altruistic and selfless foreign helpers. Leontine Cohen ("Leslie") occupies a special place among them. Born in the United States in the family of Polish immigrants, she was an activist in the trade union movement and sympathized with the USSR from an early age. In 1941 she married Morris Cohen ("Louis"), who had fought in Spain as part of the anti-fascist Interbrigades, and together they began to help Soviet foreign intelligence. In America, the Cohens provided communications with participants in the atomic project. In August 1945, during the days when the United States was testing nuclear bombs and dropping them on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Leontina penetrated the vicinity of the top-secret atomic center in Los Alamos (New Mexico), where she received from a source blueprints for nuclear weapons, which she promptly forwarded to Moscow.







The Cohen couple on their way to the airport after the release from the British prison. October 1969

The Cohens left the United States in 1950. After several years of retraining in the USSR, they were sent to Great Britain under the cover story of an Australian-born married couple Peter and Helen Kroger. There they worked successfully for several years in Konon Molody's illegal station, until they were exposed and arrested in 1961 as a result of treachery. They spent eight long years in prison. In 1969 they were

exchanged and returned to Moscow, where they lived happily for more than 25 years. In the 1990s, Morris and Leontine Cohen were awarded the titles Hero of Russia.

On the eve and in the first years of the war, undercover agents of Soviet intelligence operated out of ideological conviction in Hitler's Germany too. We are talking about the members of the underground

anti-fascist organization Red Orchestra founded in the Third Reich and Western European countries in the late 1930s. Among the dozens of its members, who believed that only the USSR was capable of relieving the world of fascism, were such outstanding personalities as Ilse Stöbe ("Alta"), the member of the press service of the German Foreign Ministry, Margarete Kuckhoff ("Kahn"), translator of the Imperial Propaganda Ministry, Mildred Harnack ("Japonka"), professor of philosophy at the University of Berlin, Libertas Schulze-Boysen ("Vicky"), writer and film critic, Oda Schottmüller ("Ani"), dancer and sculptor, and many others. Working under the most brutal terror of Hitler's secret services, they obtained the top-secret information that Moscow needed so much, until they were arrested after their husbands and comrades, and by December 1942 almost all of them were executed (*"Razvedchik" wrote about their immortal feat in No. 1(6), 2024*). On the eve of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great Victory, all of them were posthumously awarded Soviet military orders.

Members of the anti-fascist organization Red Orchestra Oda Schottmüller, Ilse Stöbe, Mildred Harnack and Libertas Schulze-Boysen



Probably the youngest Soviet foreign intelligence agent during the war was 15-year-old Gohar Pakhlevanyan ("Anita"), who moved with her parents from Armenia to Iran in the 1930s. In 1941, after Hitler's attack on the Soviet Union, she and her older brother Hovhannes voluntarily joined the so-called "Light Cavalry" – a group of teenagers from the USSR living in Tehran, led by 17-year-old Gevork Vartanyan ("Henri"). Surprisingly, these boys and girls, under the wise leadership of the chief of station of the Soviet intelligence Ivan Ivanovich Agayants, in less than a year managed to identify more than 400 agents and career officers of Hitler's special services who had gone underground and were engaged in subversive activities in Iran. During this dangerous work, Gevork Vartanyan was arrested by the Iranian police and spent three months in prison, while Gohar, declaring herself his fiancée, brought him parcels with secret messages.

In the autumn of 1943, the "cavalry boys and girls" who had gained combat experience spotted near Tehran a group of Hitler's saboteurs sent to the capital to organize an assassination attempt on Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt. In 1945 all members of the group were awarded combat medals "For Victory over Germany", and most of them returned to the Soviet Union at that time. Except for Gevork and Gohar Vartanyan, who married in 1946 and continued their clandestine work in Tehran until 1951. Then they received special training in Yerevan and Moscow and were sent abroad as career officers of Soviet illegal intelligence. During 30 years of liv-



Young Gohar Pakhlevanyan (Vartanyan), the future deep-cover intelligence officer "Anita". Tehran. 1941

gence officers of the post-war period, was awarded the high title of Hero of the Soviet Union, and Goar Levonovna was awarded the Order of the Red Banner.

After returning to their homeland, the Vartanyans, until their last days, actively participated in the training of young intelligence officers. And today, in such a troubled and challenging time for our country, their students – male and female intelligence officers, faithful to the memory of all generations of heroic defenders of the Fatherland – continue to worthily carry out a secret, but important and necessary service on distant frontiers. 🇷🇺



The Vartanyan couple in the rare moments of rest. 1970s



# Shining on others, you burn yourself...

On the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of K. P. Orlovsky's birth

Text by Andrey Kudrin

**"Today is only one day in all days that will ever be. But what will happen in all the other days that ever come can depend on what you do today".**

Ernest Hemingway  
"For Whom the Bell Tolls"

The hero of our story, Kirill Prokofievich Orlovsky, is an outstanding figure known far beyond the borders of the former USSR. Articles in newspapers and magazines, books ("The Tale of Kirill Orlovsky", "Rebellious Heart"), films ("The Chairman") were devoted to the legendary frontline intelligence officer, twice awarded the Gold Star — Hero of the Soviet Union and Socialist Labor (along with Stalin, Brezhnev, Voroshilov).

The author of this article was lucky to meet Kirill Prokofievich in person when in the fall of 1967, as part of a pioneer detachment, we went on a trip to places of military glory in the Mogilev region of Belarus. Our route ran through the Kirov district, where Kirill Orlovsky was the chairman of the collective farm "Rassvet", famous throughout the Union.

Frankly speaking, the word "village" hardly suited the settlement of Myshkovich, where the millionaire collective farm was located. Rather, it looked like a provincial town with a number of modern beautiful buildings. There was a palace of culture, a library, a school with a kindergarten, a bunch of shops along with agricultural facilities and a mini-factory for processing dairy and poultry products. They even had a small health resort there!

All of this, undoubtedly, was the personal merit of Kirill Prokofievich, who managed not only to build all of this on the ruins in a short time, but also to achieve the honorable status of the first millionaire collec-



K.P.Orlovsky, 1920

tive farm in the USSR, that is, generating a profit of more than one million rubles a year.

Unfortunately, the meeting with the Hero did not last long, apparently due to his poor health. Just a few months later, we learned from our teacher that K.P. Orlovsky had passed away. But I remember well his wishes to us, schoolchildren: try our best to study and grow up as good citizens of our Motherland, and if necessary, defend it without hesitation.

Even before arriving in Myshkovich, we were told that during the war, Kirill Prokofievich, leading the partisans, had conducted a number of successful combat operations to

annihilate the top German invaders. During one of them, he had been seriously wounded, in fact losing both his arms.

But it's one thing to hear about it, and quite another to see it with your own eyes. We, schoolchildren, couldn't comprehend how an armless person was able to manage a huge farm. He couldn't even put on his own shoes or button his clothes, let alone write or sign anything. And how would he hold an umbrella if it rained? It was only later that we realized, of course, that Kirill Prokofievich's family, his wife Tatyana Vasilyevna and foster daughter Valya, provided all the necessary help in everyday life and other matters. The Belarusian leadership didn't forget about Orlovsky either.

From the memoirs of Valentina Kirillovna Orlovskaya: *"The then head of the republic, Masherov, liked to come to visit us at the collective farm. He asked about the records we set, inquired about harvesting work, milk yields. During one of his last visits, Kirill Prokofievich was already very ill, very weak. He was lying on a folding bed in the yard. Pyotr Mironovich came up, said hello, and knelt down right on the ground. Apparently wishing to somehow support him, he said: 'Why are you lying in the dark, Kirill Prokofievich? You can't see anything, there is no light at all outside.' The very next day, the entire yard and the adjacent street were illuminated with bright street lamps"*.

In order to better understand the character of Kirill Orlovsky, we will quote an excerpt from a document dated July 6, 1944. Namely, a letter addressed to Joseph Stalin and written from dictation by Kirill Prokofievich's eldest daughter, Leonida (style and spelling are as in the





Members of the administrative board of the «Rassvet» collective farm write a collective letter in support of the Spanish Communist Justo Lopes. 1960s

Even years later, the courage and decisiveness demonstrated by K.P. Orlovsky in directly addressing the head of state and with an unusual proposal — to allocate a large monetary loan to raise a specific farm — but also the time when it was done look striking.

Let us recall that at that time Belarus had not yet been completely cleared of the Nazi invaders. Our valiant troops liberated the capital, the hero city of Minsk, literally the day before, on July 3, 1944. Operation Bagration was in full swing to bring the Red Army to the state borders of the USSR, and in general the road to complete Victory over the enemy was still very long.

The “business plan”, as economists would call it today, carefully thought out by Kirill Orlovsky, to help his native collective farm achieve record results unheard of in those days in cattle breeding and plant cultivation, also excites admiration. It contained calculations of the required number of apartments for collective farmers (each was to consist of two rooms, a kitchen, a bathroom and a small barn for livestock and poultry), provided for laying artesian wells, a huge (up to 100 hectares) orchard, a bee farm for 100 families, planting at least 30 thousand ornamental trees to create snow-retaining strips and much more.

One can only imagine what would have happened to Kirill Orlovsky if at least one of his above-mentioned pledges to Stalin had remained unfulfilled...

Looking through the personnel file of Kirill Prokofievich today, one

original): “... *If the Government of the USSR issues a loan in the amount of 2,175 thousand rubles in goods and 125 thousand rubles in monetary terms, then, by 1950, I will reach the following goals in the collective farm ‘Red Partizan’ in my homeland, in the village of Myshkovichi, Kirovskiy district, Mogilev region:*

1. *From 100 forage cows (in 1950) I will be able to achieve a milk yield of no less than eight thousand kilograms per forage cow, at the same time I will be able to increase the live weight of the dairy breeding farm, improve the exterior, and also raise the fat content of the milk every year.*

2. *Sow no less than 70 hectares of flax and in 1950 obtain no less than 20 centners of flax fiber from each hectare.*

3. *Sow 160 hectares of grain crops (rye, oats, barley) and in 1950 make no less than 60 centners from each hectare, even if there is no rain in June-July of this year. If there is rain, the harvest will be not 60, but 70–80 centners from a hectare...*

7. *By 1950, the following buildings will have been built...* (then followed a detailed list of the agricultural

buildings necessary for the collective farm, including barns, a stable, storage facilities for grain and root crops, sheds, silo pits, a mill, a sawmill, a garage, a petrol storage facility, workshops, a bakery, a bathhouse, a club with a radio installation, a house for a kindergarten, an apiary house, with the areas they occupied indicated down to the square meter!).

*I must say that the gross income of the “Red Partizan” collective farm in the Kirov district of the Mogilev region in 1940 was only 167 thousand rubles. According to my calculations, this same collective farm in 1950 can achieve a gross income of no less than three million rubles...*

*Therefore, I ask for your instructions, Comrade Stalin, to send me to this work and to provide the loan I am requesting. If questions arise regarding this application, summon me to give any necessary explanations”.*

The text had a description of the collective farm, a topographic map indicating its location, and a loan estimate attached.

can see that sending letters to the country’s top leadership was not an unusual thing for Orlovsky. Here are some examples:

“*To Comrade Pavel* (pseudonym of Lavrenty Beria in operational correspondence) *from the supply manager of the Geological Expedition in Xinjiang* (Kirill Prokofievich’s cover position during his service in China). *I ask for your order to send me to the rear of the German fascist troops for red partisan and sabotage work, where I will be able to bring incomparably more benefit to the defense of the socialist homeland than while here on economic work, since I have experience in red partisan and sabotage work not only in the rear of the German occupiers in 1919 and in the rear of the White Poles from 1920 to 1925, but also in the deep rear of the fascist troops in Spain in 1937.*

*During my seven years of work, I had to illegally cross front lines and state borders dozens of times and conduct dozens of red partisan and sabotage combat operations, defeat the enemy, destroy its communications and instill panic in it. In September 1941, I wrote such an application to Comrade Fitin, but received the following answer through Comrade Shibaev: ‘We have received your application. We keep you in mind and will call you if necessary.’ I think that now, as never before, a need for such work has arisen, and that if you send me, I will give all my thoughts, feelings, heart and, as before, will defeat the sworn enemy of humanity — the German fascists and destroy (in the rear) the fascist scum that has invaded our Soviet land. December 8, 1941. Orlovsky”.*

K.P.Orlovsky with his wife Natalya and daughters Leonida and Svetlana. 1940

A necessary clarification remark: shortly before this, in March 1941, Kirill Orlovsky, under the guise of an employee of the People’s Commissariat of Non-Ferrous Metallurgy, was sent to Alma-Ata to create an agent network in neighboring China (a war with Japan was expected, and Kirill Prokofievich’s experience in partisan warfare could be very useful). Having organized work with sources, Orlovsky left on a special mission to Xinjiang, where he carried out a brilliant operation to rescue our resident, stealing him right out from under the noses of the Kuomintang counterintelligence servicemen (Belarusian colleagues claim that he wrapped him up in a large carpet).

With the beginning of the Great Patriotic War, Kirill Prokofievich strived to return to his native Belarus, because already on the sixth day of the invasion the fascists took control of Minsk. It led to repeated conflicts between him and “Merab”, the resident of the Soviet intelligence service. Getting angry, Orlovsky would often say: “*I am a partisan fighter, not an operative!*”

On August 31, 1941, “Merab” sent the following message to Comrade Viktor (pseudonym of Pavel Fitin) in Moscow: “*‘Kirill’* (operational pseudonym of Orlovsky) *asks to be sent*

*to the rear of the fascists to fight. He knows the area of Brest, Baranovichi, Pinsk well”.* On September 7, the answer was received: “*If necessary, we will use ‘Kirill’ for other tasks. Now he must work like a soldier in the area entrusted to him”.*

However, neither the Center nor the residency fully understood what a stubborn employee they were dealing with. Having given some thought to who could resolve the issue, on December 8 Orlovsky decided to write directly to the People’s Commissar of Internal Affairs of the USSR Lavrenty Beria (the text is given above). Having secured the support of the de facto second-highest official of the state, Kirill Prokofievich immediately arrived in Moscow. He described his further actions in detail in a letter addressed to the Minister of State Security of the Belarusian SSR Lavrenty Tsanova.

“*In May 1942, I was recalled from the special mission and arrived in Moscow. In the 4<sup>th</sup> Directorate of the NKGB of the USSR, Lieutenant General Sudoplatov instructed me to assemble and prepare a reconnaissance and sabotage group of 20 people from the NKVD troops. I completed the assignment by October 25, 1942. <...> On the night of*





*October 25–26, 1942, we parachuted from a 'Douglas' aircraft in the area of Lake Vygonovskoye on the border of the Pinsk and Baranovichi regions of the BSSR. In the dense forest, in the barely passable Pinsk swamps, we hid our parachutes and crossed on foot into the Baranovichi region. Two kilometers from the Buda railway station, we built a small dugout in the forest, from which we conducted our reconnaissance and sabotage work for the first 4 months".*

Thus began a new stage in the life of Kirill Prokofievich — in the enemy's rear. By February 1943, his "Sokoly" ("Falcons") detachment numbered almost 200 people. Orlovsky used his old connections there, developed during the period of clandestine sabotage activities in the 1920s.

On February 17, late at night, his old comrade Vasily Khaletsky arrived at the partisan base, reporting that in the morning the leadership of the occupation forces, headed by Gebietskommissar Wilhelm Kube and his deputy Friedrich Fenz, accompanied by a guard of at least 40 people, would come there, to the Mashukovsky forests, for hunting.

There was very little time left for preparation. In addition, Orlovsky had no more than 15 fighters (the

rest had not yet returned from other missions), and his weapons included a light machine gun, five assault rifles and a rifle. The complete lack of grenades, which were very necessary during an attack, was alarming. Realizing that he could only count on the element of surprise and the heroism of his comrades, Kirill Prokofievich made a bold decision: instead of grenades, he would use TNT blocks tied together.

Having carefully instructed everyone (*"Open fire only on my signal"*), Orlovsky distributed the fighters dressed in camouflage suits at a distance of 15–20 meters from each other along the road which the German convoy was supposed to follow. The group lay in wait. However, something did not go according to plan. Seeing the carts, he realized that the element of surprise would not work: the guards were looking around carefully, holding their weapons and dogs at the ready.

He later wrote: *"Considering that the advantage was on the enemy's side, opening fire on them would have been pointless, and I didn't give the signal to engage. The enemy passed by without noticing us at all. I decided to meet them at the same place at 5–6 o'clock in the evening when they returned from hunting, taking into account that their vigilance would be lower and*

*the German guards would get tired during the day. My soldiers were dissatisfied with the decision, as well as with the February frost, cutting to the bone. We remained motionless in the snow for about 12 hours".*

That same evening, already in the twilight, the same convoy finally appeared, returning. The Germans had noticeably calmed down: the weapons were lying in the sleighs along with the half-drunk commanders and two dead boars. After the signal to attack, the light machine gun started shooting with surprise short-range fire, the assault rifles opened up. Orlovsky, who was lying in the middle of the cordon, managed to throw two bundles of TNT blocks, powerful explosions were heard, the Nazis scattered in different directions. The survivors tried to drive the partisans off with return fire.

Kirill Prokofievich raised his hand to throw the third bundle, but something unexpected happened: an enemy bullet exploded it right in his clenched fist. The powerful explosion stunned and contused him, his right hand was practically gone, and several fingers were torn off his left. Covered in blood, he collapsed in a snowdrift...

The soldiers rushed to the commander. Since there was no doctor in the "Sokoly" detachment, they made the only right decision: they loaded the unconscious Orlovsky onto a sled and took him to their partisan neighbors. The doctor there, having examined the wounded man, concluded: there was a threat of gangrene, an urgent operation was needed! But there was no suitable room, no necessary instruments, not even anesthesia!

Swearing an oath in the partisan detachment of K.P.Orlovsky. December 1942



Due to the poor lighting in the dugout, they decided to perform the operation outdoors. Instead of an operating table, they laid out pairs of skis tied together on stakes driven into the frozen ground, and in the absence of the necessary medical instrument, they decided to amputate the arm with an ordinary hacksaw. They sharpened it, scrubbed off the rust, and boiled it.

But how could the doctor cut without anesthesia, on the raw?! He was afraid that Orlovsky's heart would not withstand it. Without losing his composure, Kirill Prokofievich asked to give him a glass of alcohol instead of anesthesia. It turned out that there was no alcohol, only home-made vodka... Noticing that the doctor was hesitating, Orlovsky commanded: *"Cut!.."*

Incredibly, three months later Orlovsky informed Moscow of his readiness to continue leading the combat unit. It seems that our Hero's will of steel began to be forged in Spain, where in 1937, as part of the international brigades, he was actively engaged in reconnaissance and sabotage work under the pseudonym "Streak".

It is worth noting that the Spanish period of Kirill Prokofievich's life was also characterized by episodes that go beyond the limits of human capabilities. Here is just one of them: *"I report that on May 30, 1937, I crossed the front line with a group of 10 Spaniards and one Russian [Stepan Grushko] and headed deep into the rear of the fascists for sabotage work. From May 30 to July 20, 1937, with the above-mentioned group, I traveled 750 km behind enemy lines and only once, on*

Exposition with personal belongings in K.P.Orlovsky museum in the village of Mushkovichi, Kirov district, Mogilev region

*July 15, was the group discovered by the enemy".*

Just imagine: the 750-kilometer route indicated in the report ran through mountains and rocky cliffs, they walked only at night, often without food or water supplies. How did a 42-year-old man do this, with his spine having been damaged by an explosion of an enemy grenade?!

A reader familiar with the works of Ernest Hemingway may see in K.P. Orlovsky a resemblance to the character of the novel "For Whom the Bell Tolls", a Russian saboteur named Kashkin. It is quite possible that Hemingway and Orlovsky met, in any case they were both in Spain at the same time and even lived in the same hotel. It is no coincidence that the words of the novel's protagonist Robert Jordan, including those quoted in the epigraph of this article, were similar to the worldview of "Streak"...

But let's return to 1943. Being severely wounded, Orlovsky was recalled to Moscow, where after receiving the highest state award, he was dismissed from service for health reasons. Remembering those

days, Kirill Prokofievich wrote: *"I came home and stopped in front of the door. Behind the door were my wife and children. I knocked on the door with my foot, because I had nothing to ring the bell with..."*

One can only imagine the fortitude this man had in order to set a new big goal for himself after all the challenges, and not just achieve it, but once again surprise everyone with the results.

Kirill Prokofievich Orlovsky was awarded the title of Hero of Socialist Labor in 1958, after the death of Stalin, who certainly knew about the civil successes of the saboteur from Belarus. Journalists, amazed by the number of successful (more than 70!) raids of Orlovsky behind the front line, gave him the nickname "Belarusian Che Guevara". As for us, we remember the words of the classic: "Yea, were there men when I was young... they'd fight!"

Film "Invincible. Two wars of Kirill Orlovsky"





# Fitin's youth

Text: Alexander Vychugzhanin, Doctor of Historical Sciences

The personality of Pavel Mikhailovich Fitin, head of the Soviet foreign intelligence in 1939–1946, remained undeservedly forgotten for a long time and only recently began to attract the attention of researchers. Today, monuments are erected to him, books are written about him, films are made, paying tribute to his contribution to the Great Victory. However, Pavel Fitin's early years are still little studied and many still have questions: how did a peasant boy from a remote province manage to head one of the most powerful intelligence agencies in the world and successfully run it during such a dramatic period in Russian history? I think I have found answers to them.

## Peasant's Son

First, the facts. Pavel Mikhailovich Fitin was born on December 15 (28), 1907 in the village of Ozhogino, Shatrovskaya volost, Yalutorovsky district, Tobolsk province. There is very little information about his father, Mikhail Illarionovich, a peasant from the village of Ozhogino. In the archives, we were able to find only the following record of his public speech at one of the meetings: *"From 11 to 17 years old, I lived with a kulak in Shatrovo. From the age of 17, I worked at a sheepskin and fur coat factory. I sowed up to 3 hectares. In the summer, I worked on my farm, and in the winter at the factory. I lived like this until 1919. In 1920, I joined the commune. I was not with Kolchak, I hid from him in the forest".*

Pavel was the eldest child and the only boy in the family. He grew up with four sisters — Feoktista, Yefrosinya, Paraskeva and Anna — whom Pasha treated with great love. Concerns about his daily bread fell on him from an early age. In his youth, he wrote: *"... Since the family was always suffering from shortages, I had to study and help my father with the farm at the same time".*

Young Pavel was obviously significantly influenced by his uncle, Vasily Illarionovich Fitin. He was an extraordinary man: from June 1914 to December 1917, he served as a company telegraph operator in Stanislav (now Ivano-Frankovsk), and was awarded the Cross of St. George. After demobilization, he returned to Ozhogino and worked on his farm. Under Kolchak, he was forcibly drafted into the army, but escaped on the way to his place of service and joined the partisans. In 1919, he organized a party cell and commune called "Zvezda"

In the picture, right: Vasily Fitin, the uncle of Pavel Mikhailovich

in Ozhogino, and was its leader for seven years. During the bandit uprising of 1921, he assembled a detachment of communists and participated in the liquidation of the gang. He was elected as a member of the Tyumen District Committee of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks).

It is not surprising that young Fitin also decided to become a communist. In 1927, when filling out a questionnaire for admission to the Communist Party, in the column "Main profession (occupation)" Pavel wrote: *"Agriculture, 10 years of experience in this profession".* Peasant training formed the basis of Pavel Fitin's character. More about how it was formed we'll tell below.

## Next stop is the commune

The village of Ozhogino is located in a picturesque place between lakes. There are beautiful vast expanses of green grass, as far as the eye can see. The agricultural commune — a new form of organizing village life, which began to appear in Soviet Russia in 1920 — was allocated a place five kilometers from the village, also on the shore of the lake.

The first spring sowing, which took place without boundaries and strip farming, became a holiday. In the very first year, they received a bountiful harvest. In the fall, near the lake, the communards built a common dining room, a bakery, six residential buildings, a stable and a tannery. The land was all cultivated, there was even a shortage of it, so the swamp was drained. Later, a mill, a wood-working workshop, a tar factory and a forge appeared.

The problem of hunger was solved very quickly: *"Products are given out to the common pot, there is enough food, fodder and seed grain in 1923".* The financial well-being of the commune is also indicated by the fact that *"the food tax for 1922 was paid 804 poods in grain units ahead of schedule".* We should add to this that the peasants who joined the commune were by no means destitute, there were no horseless people. The members of "Zvezda" believed in themselves, the communards were inspired by the success. For Pasha Fitin, as well as for other young people, this was a revolution in reality. Their way of life was changing in a truly revolutionary way! And it was changing through the labor of the communards themselves.

By 1926, the economic situation of the commune had become even stronger, although the number of members had decreased slightly: from 85 to 76 people. There were the same number of families — 18. There were 24 able-bodied men aged 14 to 60, including Pasha Fitin. The industriousness of the communards is evidenced by the growth of the sown area by 20% compared to 1923. By 1926, a bathhouse and laundry appeared in the communard life, and public catering was organized. A dynamo machine provided lighting for residential and industrial premises. The library at the commune had 80 books.





Of course, life in the commune was not easy. Nevertheless, the communards spoke of that time with good feelings. Pavel Mikhailovich's sisters, Anna and Paraskeva, wrote in the 1990s: *"Living in Moscow, we often recollect our childhood, which still shines so brightly for us. Our fathers and mothers, having survived a terrible war (civil), took on the task of building a new, better life for the poor. This commune life was short, but they managed to do a lot... The work went on in a friendly and cheerful way. They always rode to and from the fields singing, and after dinner the song continued to sound in the dining room for a long time. There was also a drama club, where adults and children performed, and they often went to the village club with performances. We, the children, were given a lot of care and attention. We were all pioneers, helping adults in their difficult work, of course, as much as we could... Many villagers loved to visit the communards, and there are probably still people who remember our commune"*.

Pasha Fitin spent seven years in "Zvezda": from 1920 to 1927. It was during these years that his personality was formed. That life was not totally hunger-free. A characteristic detail: in 1927, in the questionnaire in the column "Physical disabilities and health condition", the twenty-year-old guy indicated "Mild anemia" — a consequence of undereating meat products.



Be that as it may, for Pavel the commune became a unique experience. He loved agriculture, but decided to devote himself to the manufacture of machines to facilitate peasant labor, which is why he chose the engineering department of the agricultural academy.

Tragic Year 1921

The kulak-SR (socialist revolutionaries) uprising that broke out in the Tyumen province on February 7, 1921, is perhaps the most tragic event in the entire history of our region. Having begun under the slogan "Down with the communist robbers!", it soon turned into a hunt for all sympathizers of the Soviet government. Brutal reprisals took place across the region. In order to save ammunition, people were tortured, their eyes were gouged out, they were tortured with hot irons, their noses and ears were cut off, they were kept in the cold without clothes and shoes, and they were starved.

Pavel Fitin devoted only one line to this event in his autobiography: *"Despite the fact that I was only 13 years old, I ended up in the katalazhka (penal yard) with everyone else/like a prison sentence/"*. There is an eyewitness account of the "katalazhka": *"From the first place of detention <...> they were transferred to the stone two-story storeroom of the kulak Panfil. Communists and Komsomol members from nearby villages were also put in this kulak prison. A strict regime was established there with round-the-clock duty — guards, locks on the doors, iron bars and closed shutters on the windows. There was no longer any way to escape"*.

Kulak prison — a stone barn in the Ozhogino village (photo by the author)

How long Fitin was locked up is not exactly known. Some biographers believe that it was two or three months. When I looked at this stone barn in Ozhogino, I had great doubts: spending even a few days in an unheated building in the February-March frosts is already a great test. And if you also keep in mind the extremely meager rations of the prisoners — half a pound of bread per day, then the chances of surviving in this stone bag were close to zero.

For Pavel and his comrades, the tests of maturity did not end with release from prison. Bandits carried out four more raids on Ozhogino, and after each of them a mass grave appeared in the village. In those years, all adult communards were members of banditry liquidation squads, and only old men, women and young people worked in the fields; they had to defend themselves from kulak gangs while fulfilling the field work plan. Many teenagers carried cold arms and firearms. Two persons on duty were assigned daily, who carried out reconnaissance on horseback, warning of attacks.

This foresight saved the boys' lives. One day, their direct superior, a certain Bayev (as it later turned out, a traitor), forbade them to take horses for reconnaissance, ordering everyone to work in the fields. At the same time, he threatened: *if you do not follow the order, I will relieve myself of responsibility for the harvest and leave*. After consulting, the Komsomol members decided to continue reconnaissance. They had barely started working when the scouts who had been sent galloped back at full speed, signaling danger. When the bandits approached, the villagers were already out of reach: they had managed to hide in the forest.

Having survived 1921, young Pasha Fitin became a truly grown-up man.

School years

Everyone who has read Pavel Fitin's autobiography (see Document 1 in the "Declassified Archives" section) has noticed his beautiful handwriting and almost complete absence of grammatical errors. For a village boy, this is probably the best characteristic of diligence. Young Fitin started his first school year back in the tsar's time, in 1916, in Ozhogino. From 1922, he continued his education in Yalutorovsk, and finished it in 1926 already in Tyumen, at school No. 1.

The teaching staff of the Tyumen school was strong. Suffice it to say that out of 18 teachers, five graduated from the university, 11 had teaching experience from 10 to 33 years. It should also be noted that in the 1920s, a revolutionary breakthrough began in school processes. In particular, the emphasis was placed on school self-government: komuchs

Graduates of School No.1 of Tyumen. 1926



appeared — student committees that were elected at a general meeting.

At the same time, mass cultural and educational work was underway in schools. Cells of MOPR (International Organization for Assistance to Revolutionary Fighters), ODN (Society "Down with Illiteracy") were opened, students published wall newspapers, staged plays... School life was in full swing! And young Fitin took part in all of this.

Of the 1926 graduates of Tyumen School No. 1, 13 people applied for admission to the university. The Tyumen City Committee of the Komsomol issued recommendations to seven, including Pavel Fitin. But he entered the institute in Moscow only two years later. The reasons for this are unknown. Perhaps Pavel Mikhailovich was planned to be appointed to leading public work in Tyumen, but in the end he was allowed to leave. From June to August 1928, Pavel Fitin attended courses

to enter a university at the Tyumen district division of public education. The fact that after a two-year break in his studies, he managed to enter one of the most prestigious universities in the USSR, the Timiryazev Agricultural Academy, after taking short courses, speaks both of his abilities and of the high qualifications of Tyumen teachers.

"We haven't sniffed politics yet"

On December 20, 1922, the Yalutorovsk district committee of the RKSM admitted Pavel Fitin into the ranks of the Komsomol. A year before, while in the "katalazhka", he had practically looked death in the eye. So it was a conscious choice — towards a new, happy life. He probably read the speeches of V.I. Lenin, including the leader's memorable speech at the Third Congress of the Komsomol in October 1920: *"You can become a communist only when you enrich your memory with knowledge of all the riches that humanity has produced"*.



Let us cite another fragment from the same speech by Vladimir Ilyich: *"The generation that is now 15 years old and that in 10–20 years will live in a communist society must set all the tasks of its teaching in a way that every day in any village, in any city, the youth should solve in practice one or another task of common labor, even the smallest, the simplest. As this happens in each village, as communist competition develops, as the youth proves that it can unite its labor — as this happens, the success of building communism will be ensured"*.

Archival documents show that Pavel Fitin perceived Vladimir Ilyich's call as a guide to action. This explains the mass of social workloads that he successfully coped with. The Komsomol gave a powerful start to the development of Pavel's personality, helped to reveal his creative and organizational abilities, broaden his horizons, and raise his cultural level. But not all Komsomol members were role models. Activists like Pavel were in the minority. And such resistance from the environment, of course, also tempered the character of the young man.

In 1927, in his autobiography, Pavel Mikhailovich reports the following

about social workloads: *"... I work in the commune on cultural and educational work, at the same time I work as a leader of a pioneer squad and carry out a number of other party and Soviet jobs, namely: 1) Editor of a wall newspaper, 2) Member of the audit commission of the village council, 3) head of the likpunkt (liquidation center), etc. Recently, I worked as a secretary of the VLKSM cell and head of the APO cell of the VKPb"*.

"Head of the APO" is the head of the agitation and propaganda department at the Ozhoginskaya cell of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks). In fact, Pavel was obliged to explain to fellow villagers the decisions of the highest party bodies and the specifics of the current policy. The word "likpunkt", familiar at the dawn of Soviet power, also requires clarification today. This is a center for elimination of illiteracy, in those years very popular among the rural population.

And behind the short "etc". there is much more, from which, like from bricks, the multifaceted personality of Pavel Fitin was built. Here was long-term membership in the bureau of the Ozhoginskaya Komsomol cell, and election as a deputy of the

Ozhoginsky village council, as well as a candidate for membership in the audit commission of the Shatrov Union of Communities. It is noteworthy that of the three members of the commission, Pavel was the youngest, he was only 19 years old, his fellow auditors were 46 and 42 years old. He was also the most literate.

With his activity and his responsible approach, young Fitin quickly gained authority in the Komsomol environment. His public speeches were distinguished by thoughtfulness, clarity, and brevity. Already in those years, a desire for a systematic approach to the analysis of any problem was noticeable. Peasant common sense alone was not enough here. It was evident that he was constantly working on his intellectual development.

Here is an example of one of Pavel's speeches at political studies: *"It is necessary to involve all listeners in reading. This is very useful. Practical assignments must be conducted and accurately completed. It is necessary to introduce individual and group assignments for practical assignments and strictly monitor their implementation. It is not difficult to introduce recording, but the matter is complicated by the illiteracy of the listeners. Non-attendance is partly the fault of the leader. The leader must be persistent. Then attendance will be good"*. In what was said, one can guess the style of the future great leader: analysis of the situation, clear statement of the task, individual approach, selection of performers, control over implementation, persistence in achieving the goal.

On December 24, 1926, at a meeting of the bureau of the Shatrovsky dis-

VLKSM cell at the school in Tyumen. 1926



P. M. Fitin among his relatives. Late 1940s

self almost became a victim. So the formation of a loyal attitude towards the authorities among the villagers became an urgent necessity for him.

In Tyumen, young Fitin received not only a basic education. By the age of twenty, when Pavel went to Moscow, in addition to peasant diligence, he had a good knowledge of life, practice of working with government bodies and experience of participation in all significant forms of public work that existed at that time in the USSR. Thus, he arrived in the capital as an established personality with an impressive life baggage and a huge motivation to serve his native country. 🚩

strict party committee, the Ozhoginskaya cell was recognized as the best in the district. However, one of the participants in the meeting made a reproach claiming that the Komsomol members were too involved in politics, and not in practical work. Pavel was not intimidated: *"We have not sniffed politics yet"*.

In the summer of 1927, Fitin was appointed head of the district bureau of "Young Pioneers". After a six-week course in Sverdlovsk, he started work. The characteristics of Pavel stored in the archive speak for themselves. The first is from the superiors: *"Very active, responsive. Over the past five months, he worked as a pioneer leader of the Ozhoginsky detachment. The pioneer detachment under his leadership was one of the first. He loves pioneer work, knows how to guide and quickly navigates issues"*. Another was issued after the courses in Sverdlovsk: *"Comrade Fitin P.M. takes his studies seriously. His academic performance is satisfactory. Worker's quality: self-possessed, disciplined, has organizational skills"*.

"Study, study, study"

What is the main reason for Pavel Fitin's success in public work on the Tyumen land? The answer is obvious: in constant work on himself. Young Fitin lived in three guises at once: as a communard concerned about his daily bread, as an active Komsomol worker and as an insatiable reader, primarily of magazines and newspapers. I am convinced that periodicals had a significant influence on the formation of his worldview. On a regular basis he looked through magazines as "Lapot", "Pioneer", "Vozhatiy", "Krestyanka". From the newspapers in the commune they subscribed to "Krestyanskaya", "Bednota", "Batrak", "Pravda", "Krasnoye Znamya" and others.

Pavel Mikhailovich's craving for reading was not only personal. As the head of the liquidation center, he was obliged to analyze what he had read and convey everything to the listeners in an accessible manner. The political situation remained difficult: only four years had passed since the peasant uprisings, of which he him-



Film about P.M. Fitin "Justas to Alex. That very Alex"





# General de Gaulle

## and the soviet intelligence

Text: Alexander Markov, writer

Today, the question of who was the leader of the French Resistance during World War II — de Gaulle or Giraud — seems inappropriate. Decades later, both Giraud himself and the fact that he had a good chance of heading the post-war France, have been nearly forgotten. But 80 years ago, everything was not so obvious. If it had not been for the support of the Soviet Union, the French might not have even been invited to Karlshorst to sign the German Instrument of Surrender, where Field Marshal Keitel exclaimed: “Why, have we lost to these too?!”

De Gaulle himself admitted in his memoirs that even at the final stage of the war, his position was shaky. Not a single organization supported him, and on the whole, he did not suit any of the countries of the anti-Hitler coalition. De Gaulle did not share the ideas of communism. Instead of the “Soviet Union”, he preferred to say “Russia”, and claimed that *“Russia will drink communism in like a blotter drinks ink”*. In other words, he could by no means be called a pro-Soviet politician. But he was not pro-American or pro-British either. London and Washington tried to find a substitute for him more than once, and only Moscow immediately placed a bet on him.

### De Gaulle: a stranger to everyone

In June 1940, after the fall of France, Winston Churchill sent a plane to Bordeaux in order to evacuate the former Prime Minister Paul Reynaud. At that time, Paris had been surrendered without a fight, and the government had been headed by Marshal Philippe Petain, who was demanding to make immediate peace with the Germans. But instead of Reynaud, the plane carried to London a totally unknown Deputy Minister of Defense, General Charles de Gaulle, to whom Reynaud had given 100 thousand francs to continue the fight.

In England, de Gaulle asked for some radio airtime. The Foreign Ministry objected, fearing complications with the Petain's government, but Churchill agreed. The speech took place on June 18, 1940, four days before the

shameful capitulation of France signed in the Forest of Compiègne, in the same train car in which Germany had signed its capitulation in 1918.

Nobody expected anything remarkable from the general's appeal, but he astonished everyone by calling on French soldiers and officers, engineers and workers who were staying on the British territory or would arrive there with or without weapons, to contact him. He spoke in his own name, that is, it was he, de Gaulle, and not France, who called for the help. Having appointed himself as the Savior of the Nation, he did not even consider other options. He ended his speech with a slogan that inspired hope in the French: *“Whatever happens, the flame of the French Resistance must not and will not go out!”*

### The intrigues begin

At that time, almost no real forces supported de Gaulle. The governors of the colonies had sworn allegiance to Petain, who sought to conclude an agreement with the Germans in order to become one of Hitler's satellites, like Hungary or Romania, to emerge from the war as a winner and to participate in the division of the world. At that time, the Marshal had something to offer the Führer: the majority of the population, loyal to the Germans, and, most importantly, resources in the form of colonies and the fleet. But in July 1940, the British, fearing that the French ships would end up in the hands of the Third Reich, crushed the remnants of the fleet off the coast of Algeria.



Marshal Petain

London believed that France would never return to the circle of the leading powers, and after the war would become something like Belgium or Finland, that is, a country on which almost nothing depended. The British also eyed the French colonies with greed. At the same time, they acted in different directions: signed a secret agreement in which they recognized the Petain's government, hoping to win him over to their side, and if that was to fail, they were looking for a politician who would act under the orders from Downing Street. They saw de Gaulle as an excellent candidate for the role of a puppet. The British had given him a shelter, and it seemed that there would be no difficulties, but suddenly it turned out that de Gaulle was demanding equal treatment from Churchill, as if he were head of a sovereign state. This drove the British Prime Minister crazy.





De Gaulle's speech on the radio.  
June 1940

munist partisans. London and Washington would not allow to establish a pro-Soviet regime; a neutral figure was needed.

There is a "dark spot" in de Gaulle's biography: in 1920, he fought on the side of Poland in the Soviet-Polish war. At that time, the French supplied the Polish army with weapons and uniforms left in warehouses after the First World War. But in the face of a mortal enemy, the USSR forgot old grievances. When de Gaulle created the "National Committee" in September 1941, Moscow was the first to recognize it. The Soviet ambassador to London, Ivan Maisky, handed the general a letter which informed that the USSR considered him the leader of all free Frenchmen. Thus, in fact, an alliance treaty was made. And although neither the British nor the Americans took a similar step, de Gaulle's position in the international political arena strengthened noticeably.

It should be noted that de Gaulle also skillfully took advantage of the contradictions between the allies. On October 7, 1941, he proposed that two French divisions take part in the offensive in Libya. The British refused, they were deliberately removing him from participation in important actions. Then de Gaulle met with Maisky, declaring that he was ready to send one division to the Soviet-German front. They even decided that it would go to the Caucasus. Of course, this was a bluff. Given the intensity of the fighting, this division would have dissolved without accomplishing anything significant. De Gaulle wanted to impress none other than the British, so that they would take him into account.

The British rose to the bait. Having learned about the negotiations with the Russians, they informed the

### Moscow plays subtly

The Soviet Foreign Intelligence Service's station in London informed the Center that de Gaulle was trying to stand his ground and was not following Churchill's lead ([see documents on the Russian SVR's website](#)). On the one hand, Moscow supported all forces fighting the Nazi Germany, and de Gaulle was seen as the man who would lead the warring France. However, contradictions within the anti-Hitler coalition forced the USSR to seek a counterweight to the USA and Great Britain, and there were no other aspirants for this role, except France, despite its weakness. The Kremlin needed to make sure that the allies would take Paris into account.

Moscow played subtly, placing a bet on de Gaulle. Of course, it was possible to choose one of the leaders of the French Communist Party who fought in the Resistance. But in this case, after the Allies' invasion, in France the same thing would have most likely taken place that happened in Greece in 1944–1945, when the British fought not the Germans, but the Greek com-

general that they agreed to the participation of the French in the Libyan offensive. In the summer of 1942, the French rose to notice fighting heroically against the German and Italian troops at Bir Hakeim. For de Gaulle, this battle, which did not greatly affect the course of the war, was very important. "Free France" was gaining points: the General was supported by the colonies in Central Africa, and 70 thousand soldiers were already fighting under his banner. This way, practically from scratch, he created a powerful organization.

At the same time, in London de Gaulle lived as if he were on a volcano, constantly expecting some meanness from the British. They were looking for a substitute for him, looking first at the Governor-General of French Indochina Georges Catroux, and later, at Vice-Admiral Emile Muselier. However, as de Gaulle's popularity grew, it was becoming increasingly difficult to displace him from the top positions. In his letters to Roosevelt, Churchill called the General nothing less than *"a nonsensical person who imagines himself the savior of France"* and *"an arrogant Frenchman"*. Roosevelt couldn't stand the *"upstart with Bonapartist ambitions"* too, and he believed that de Gaulle was inclined towards dictatorship. Perhaps this was the only moment where the allies' positions coincided: they all noticed Napoleonic habits in the General, but all of them had different plans for the lanky Frenchman.

### Enter Giraud

After the fall of France, the United States were also looking at the "orphaned" colonies, but de Gaulle was stubborn. And then, a figure appeared on the scene that could well suit the

W. Churchill, Generals V. Sikorsky (second left) and Ch. de Gaulle at tank exercises in Great Britain. March 7, 1941

Americans: General Henri Giraud. In May 1940, he was captured by the Germans near the town of Wassigny in Picardy. It should be noted that he had been captured in the same places during the First World War, but managed to escape after only two months. This time, his imprisonment lasted for two years: only in April 1942 did he escape from the mountain fortress of Königstein in Switzerland, climbing down from a sheer cliff on a rope he had woven from scraps of a bed sheet. How did he manage? Apparently, not without an outside help, because at that time Giraud was 63 years old!

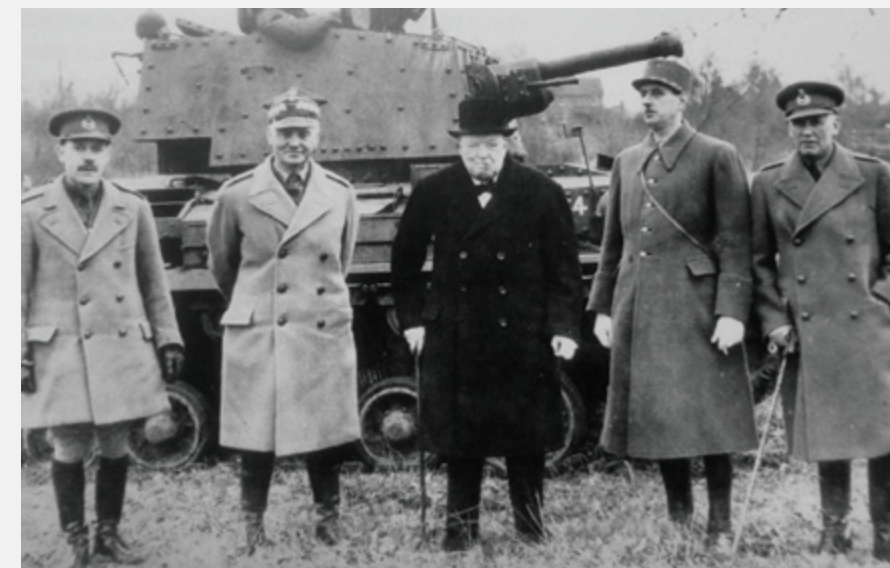
In any case, the General reached the south of France, where he met with Petain and tried to persuade the latter to continue the resistance. The Marshal immediately rejected these ideas, fearing problems with Hitler, but he did not hand Giraud over to the Germans either, although Himmler had already sentenced the fugitive to death.

The daring escape gave Giraud a halo of a hero, and he became very popular among the French. The Americans quickly contacted him, having found out that he was ready to cooperate with Washington. The General, in particular, promised that in matters of

post-war reconstruction, France would rely on the United States. Who knows, maybe, he was bluffing and, having gotten what he wanted, would have given the finger to the Yankees, but in any case, he seemed to them a much more attractive figure than de Gaulle.

### How to bring the two Generals together?

On the eve of the Anglo-American invasion of North Africa, Giraud was taken to Gibraltar, to the headquarters of the commander of the allied forces, Dwight Eisenhower. And de Gaulle, by an order of Roosevelt, was removed from the preparation of the operation. They have apparently decided to write him off. After all, the necessary candidate had been found, even two! As it turned out, the Americans were also quite happy with the Commander-in-Chief of the Vichy troops in North Africa, Admiral François Darlan, with whom the CIA officer Robert Murphy worked closely in Algeria. In Washington, they made arrangements for Giraud to be appointed Commander-in-Chief of the French troops in North Africa, and Darlan was put in charge of the administration. As for the British, all these appointments became a surprise for them.







Generals Giraud (left) and de Gaulle at the conference in Casablanca. January 24, 1943

considered that everything had been decided, and that it was Giraud who represented the interests of France (see documents in the “Declassified Archives” section). Washington had to be reminded that Moscow supported only de Gaulle as an irreconcilable fighter against fascist Germany, who had not stained himself with collaborationism.

Only after this did Giraud and de Gaulle formally unite. On July 3, 1943, the creation of the French Committee of National Liberation (FCNL), equally led by both Generals, was announced. However, Giraud remained Commander-in-Chief, and the US hoped that, with the help of the army, he could still become the absolute leader of the post-war France.

#### Soviet intelligence officer Agayants takes up the case

With the creation of the FCNO, the allies did not stop intriguing against the USSR. The Americans and the British, who had diplomatic missions in Algeria, tried to influence the situation in the French Resistance in their favor. Moscow was denied the opening of such a mission, as the allies were seeking to isolate de Gaulle from all contacts with the Russians. The USSR had to look for workarounds. Since there were many citizens of the Soviet Union among the displaced people in North Africa, our ambassador in Washington Andrei Gromyko forced Secretary of State Cordell Hull to give permission to work with them.

In August 1943, Ivan Agayants, the station chief of foreign intelligence in Iran, who had previously had contact with de Gaulle, arrived in Algeria as part of the group. Through a postman, an activist of the French Communist

Party, Agayants obtained a copy of the General's letter to his mother, where the latter discussed the need for an alliance between France and Russia, as the only ones who were ready to fight fascism to the end. It became clear that de Gaulle saw Moscow, not Washington or London, as an ally. When Agayants met with the General, the latter realized that it was not just a diplomat who had come to him. He shared sensitive information with our intelligence officer and appealed to the USSR leadership through him for diplomatic assistance. Moscow insisted that the General be notified of all Allies' operations, and that his representatives be included on equal terms in the work of various commissions. And it was this support that finally allowed de Gaulle to outplay Giraud.

Of course, the United States and Great Britain continued to put spokes in de Gaulle's wheels, still hoping that someone more convenient and accommodating than the arrogant General would turn up. Thus, he was informed about the opening of the second front two days before the Normandy landing. The French army carried out a similar operation only two months later. De Gaulle clearly distinguished between the two events, and later he wrote: *“The landing of June 6 was the work of the Anglo-Saxons, from which France was removed. They decided to establish themselves in France as if they were in enemy territory”*.

In August 1944, de Gaulle was greeted in the liberated Paris as a triumphant. They even had to restrain the townspeople so that they would not strangle the General in their arms. True though, four months earlier, the Parisians had thrown themselves at Marshal Petain with the same delight.

Charles de Gaulle hands awards to Soviet military leaders. Moscow. December 9, 1944

#### De Gaulle and the Soviet Union

In early December 1944, de Gaulle arrived in Moscow, where he finally met with Stalin. He had asked Agayants to arrange a personal audience a year earlier in Algeria. The negotiations lasted almost a week. They discussed the post-war world, and disagreed on many issues. And this despite the fact that the USSR was de Gaulle's main ally. Personally de Gaulle's, not France's as a whole. If not for Moscow's support, someone else would have definitely taken his place due to Western intrigues.

De Gaulle saw the reasons why he was not invited to Yalta for the meeting of the “Big Three” in February 1945 as Churchill's machinations. This may be so. But, frankly speaking, the French contribution to the victory was much more modest than that of Britain and the United States. Even less than the contribution of the Poles, because the Polish Army, as part of the Red Army, crossed half of Europe, stormed Berlin, and the SS Division “Charlemagne”, which consisted of Frenchmen, on the contrary, defended the Reichstag.

Nevertheless, France was among the victorious powers and was present together with them at the signing of the German Instrument of Surrender.

Because of this, it is considered one of the UN founding countries and is a permanent member of the Security Council, which, of course, it has not deserved. All this is a gift from the USSR to the French people.

While de Gaulle lived, he tried to justify this advance. The General advocated the creation of an anti-American coalition, provided military and technical assistance to Vietnam. Under him, France left NATO, which it had joined when de Gaulle was in opposition. In 1965, he demanded that the United States return French gold. Washington threatened certain consequences, but de Gaulle got his own way. Naturally, the obstinate General was not forgiven for this. There is an opinion that US intelligence services were behind the student unrest in Paris in the spring of 1968, which cost de Gaulle his presidential seat.

The French consider de Gaulle one of the greatest politicians of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, who did not allow the country to turn into a second-rate power, which the United States and Britain were preparing it for. But we must remember that this happened largely thanks to the support of the Soviet Union. However, the General's successors have long squandered this legacy. 🇫🇷





## Автобиография

33

Я, Фитин Павел Михайлович, родился в 1907 г. в селе Отогино, Шадринского района, Курганской области, в семье крестьянина - бедняка.

Родителем до революции занимался собственным хозяйством. После освобождения села от Колчака, они в марте 1920 года вступили в сельскохозяйственную коммуны "Звезда" Шадринского района. Отец был одним из ее организаторов.

В 1919 году отец вступил в члены ВКПб. В 1934 году он умер там же в коммуны. Мать в настоящее время проживает в Макарове у своей средней дочери.

До революции пошел работать по хозяйству, а в 1920 году вместе с ним вступил в с/х коммуны. В коммуны в зимнее время учился, а летом работал на разных сельскохозяйственных работах.

Во время гражданской войны в 1921. Вместе с другими коммунарками я был арестован и содержался под охраной до приказа революционного правительства Красной Армии.

В 1922 году вступил в комсомол и состоял до 1924 года в партии вступил в коммуны в 1927 году.

В мае 1927 года был взят на работу в Шадринский район комсомола и работал там в качестве председателя бюро Юношеского и зем. секретарей района до июня 1928 г.

В сентябре поступил на химический факультет Шадринского техникума, впоследствии переквалифицирован в институт механизации и электрификации сельского хозяйства. Окончил институт в 1932 году. Будучи на последнем курсе работал заместителем координатора техникума.

После окончания института был направлен на работу в Свердловск, в качестве руководителя редакционной и административной, где и работал вплоть до ухода в армию. С 1934 г. до 1935 г. служил в Красной армии, как интендант, и, уйдя в запас, учился отпуском в качестве заочного командира боевой армии снова возобновил свою работу в Свердловске, сначала в качестве редактора, а затем руководителем

редакцией массовых изданий. В конце 1935 года был назначен заместителем главного редактора Сельхозиздата, где работал до мобилизации в органы государственной безопасности.

С марта 1936 по июль 1938 г. учился в центральном школе НКВД СССР. С июля и по сей день работаю на разных должностях в органах государственной безопасности.

Под руководством и партийная работа состояла в следующем:

В 1922 году был членом-бюро. С 1923 по 1926 г. член бюро комсомольской ячейки в школе. С 1926 г. по 1927 г. член бюро ячейки в школе и членом-бюро на селе. В 1926 г. был избран в члены Сельхозиздата, являясь членом правления. С 1927 г. по 1928 г. член бюро РКВКП и член Тюменского окружного комитета комсомола.

С 1928 по 1929 г. член бюро партийного ячейки в школе (технической академии), член бюро академической ячейки в школе и член бюро партийного ячейки ВКПб.

С началом работы в Свердловске в 1932 г. был членом бюро ячейки ВКПб, а в 1934 году был избран секретарем партийного комитета Сельхозиздата.

За время работы в органах государственной безопасности избирался членом партбюро отдела, управлений. В настоящее время являюсь членом партийного комитета МГБ СССР.

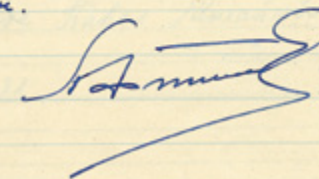
Партийная деятельность не прекратилась.

Родительские записки и рекомендации не давал.

Имею 4-е место, которое получил об этом отделе, своим семейством.

Имею пенсию и прочие деньги.

12. XII - 1946 г.




Full version of the document on the SVR of Russia site

Document 1.  
Autobiography  
of P.M. Fitin, head  
of foreign intelligence  
(collage).  
December 12, 1946

Document 1.  
Autobiography  
of P.M. Fitin, head  
of foreign intelligence  
(collage).  
December 12, 1946



Document 2.  
Telegram from  
London.  
November 13, 1942

Рассекречено

СОВ. СЕКРЕТНО

ЛВ

ШИФРТЕЛЕГРАММА Вх. № 10739, 10734 456

Из ЛОНДОНА

Получена 13 " X1 1942 г. 15 " ч. 00 м. Расшифр. 13 " X1 1942 г. 19 " ч. 15 " м.

Для резолюций  
и пометок

Куда, кому

Сегодня " " в беседе со мной рассказал следующее: в связи с последними событиями в северной Африке положение Де Голля сильно осложнилось. Американцы не считались с ним и раньше, а теперь открыто противопоставили ему генерала Жиро, вызванного ими из Франции. Показателем отношения американцев к нему являются следующие факты: в период подготовки своего выступления в северной Африке они не только не консультировались с ним, но даже скрывали от него свои планы. По данным " " Черчилль запрашивал Рузвельта можно ли информировать Де Голля о предстоящем выступлении союзников в северной Африке. Рузвельт категорически возразил против этого. На днях Де Голль был на завтраке у Черчилля и обсуждал с ним положение в северной Африке: Черчилль осторожно намекнул ему на возможность подчинения его генералу Жиро. Де Голль отверг это предложение. Разумеется, он не согласится признать над собой власть Жиро, также как и последний никогда не пойдет на подчинение Де Голлю. Политика Америки в отношении Франции, ее колоний и лидеров различных групп инспирируется бывшим генеральным

Снятие копий категорически воспрещается

Отп. \_\_\_\_\_ экз. \_\_\_\_\_

Экз. № \_\_\_\_\_

Подлежит возврату через 48 часов  
в 13-е отделение

Экз. № 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Экз. № 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Экз. № 3 \_\_\_\_\_

13-е отделение

Рассекречено

СОВ. СЕКРЕТНО

ЛВ

ШИФРТЕЛЕГРАММА Вх. № 10739, 10734 456

Из ЛОНДОНА

Получена 13 " X1 1942 г. 15 " ч. 00 м. Расшифр. 13 " X1 1942 г. 19 " ч. 15 " м.

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Экз. № \_\_\_\_\_

Подлежит возврату через 48 часов  
в 13-е отделение

Экз. № 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Экз. № 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Экз. № 3 \_\_\_\_\_

13-е отделение

Document 2.  
Telegram from  
London.  
November 13, 1942



457

- 3 -

находящихся здесь, в Америке и французской Африке. Этот орган может называться правительством или национальным комитетом. Это не столь важно, главное - объединить все политические группы и военные силы для борьбы за освобождение Франции от Германии. В этом органе Де Голль мог бы занять пост военного министра, а Жиро - командующего французской армии. Другие посты следовало бы дать политическим и хозяйственным деятелям, проявившим себя честными патриотами. Таких деятелей имеется много в Америке среди французской профессуры и в Англии в деголлевском движении. Конкретно [ ] [ ] не назвал ни одной фамилии, сказав только, что авторитеты и крупные имена не обязательны, можно найти способных и честных французов без громких имен.

№ 481

5 отделение *Кубанский*

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Document 2.  
Telegram from  
London.  
November 13, 1942

v

ШИФРТЕЛЕГРАММА Вх. № 797

СОВ. СЕКРЕТНО 390

Из Лондона.

Получена „28“ 1 1943 г. „14“ ч. „00“ м. Расшифр „28“ служба внешней разведки РСФСР „10“

Для резолюций и пометок

Куда, кому

БЮРАН ДЕ РОЗЬЕ, адъютант генерала КАТРУ сообщил, что ЧЕРЧИЛЛЬ действительно выезжал в Вашингтон на совещание с РУЗВЕЛЬТОМ. Только после этого они оба прибыли в Марокко, где встретились с генералом ЖИРО. На состоявшейся конференции РУЗВЕЛЬТ-ЧЕРЧИЛЛЬ-ЖИРО был решен вопрос о подчинении ДЕ-ГОЛЛЯ генералу ЖИРО и составлен проект соглашения. Вслед за этим ЧЕРЧИЛЛЬ телеграммой предложил ДЕ-ГОЛЛЕ приехать в Марокко. Последний, открыто выразив перед лицом Французского национального комитета свои опасения по поводу того, что может скрываться за присланным приглашением, решил отправить вместо себя генерала КАТРУ. Однако, вслед за прибытием КАТРУ в Марокко ДЕ-ГОЛЛЕ было направлено еще одно более категорическое требование встретиться с ЧЕРЧИЛЛЕМ, РУЗВЕЛЬТОМ и ЖИРО. В результате повторного приглашения ДЕ-ГОЛЛЬ вылетел из Англии в Африку в четверг 31 января и вернулся 26 января с.г. Результат переговоров руководителей союзных правительств с генералом ЖИРО позволяет заметить незначительное участие ДЕ-ГОЛЛЯ в этом деле также его мнение по существу проекта соглашения не было спрошено и всего вернее ему было про

Снятие копий категорически воспрещается

Экз. № 1  
Экз. № 2  
Экз. № 3

Подлежит возврату через 48 часов в 13-е отделение

13-е отделение

Document 3.  
Telegram from London.  
January 28, 1943



2. -

ото предложено подчиниться генералу ЖИРО. Часть членов французского национального комитета: Борис, Филипп и другие, а также и ряд других французских политических деятелей, например, редактор газеты "МАРСЕЛЬЕЗА", издающейся в Лондоне, занимают, якобы, оппозиционные генералу ЖИРО позиции. Однако, Филипп все же высказывается в пользу единства французского движения, хотя и с оговоркой следующего порядка, а именно: ДЕ-ГОЛЛЬ не должен терять свое положение как руководитель или во всяком случае личность заметная в этом движении. Что касается французского национального комитета, то он, если его придется распустить в результате соглашения ЖИРО-ДЕ-ГОЛЛЬ, не должен прекращать своего существования, а стать, может быть в ином составе, органом, представляющим французское меньшинство в Англии. Наш источник предполагает, что в результате соглашения ДЕ-ГОЛЛЬ перенесет свою резиденцию в Бразавиль, так, что центр его деятельности переместится из Англии в Африку.

27.1.43г. № 128

6 отделение. *М. Куркин*

Document 3.  
Telegram from London.  
January 28, 1943

106  
СОВ. СЕКРЕТНО

**ШИФРТЕЛЕГРАММА** Вх. № 5435  
Служба внешней разведки РСФСР

ЛОНДОНА

Из 11 6 4 2 15 12 6 4 16 20  
Получена „ „ 194 г. „ ч. „ м. Расшифр. „ „ 194 г. „ ч. „ м.

Для резолюций и пометок

Кому адресована:

1. Сэр ГЕРБЕРТ ЭМЕРСОН, (ХА КОМИШИНЕР) по делу беженцев при лиге наций, сын которого работает в штабе армии вторжения сообщил мне, что первая фаза операций на континенте развивается вполне благоприятно. Сопротивление немцев при высадке оказалось незначительным и потери союзников при этом были ничтожны. Эти данные в основном подтверждаются в лейбористском парламентском лагере.

2. 8 июня появились первые указания на сильные немецкие контратаки. Представитель воздушного командования в разговорах с журналистами проговорился, что последние бомбардировки в Нормандии были проведены в связи экстренным требованиям штаба армии вторжения. После такого неосторожного заявления министерство информации вынуждено было сделать специальное предупреждение, о том, что эти данные не разрешается опубликовывать. В связи с указанным заявлением, делаются выводы, что немцы начали настолько серьезные контратаки, что потребовалось срочно высылать авиацию, несмотря на плохие летные условия.

Снятие копий категорически воспрещается

От *М. Куркин* экз. № 1  
Экз. № 2  
Экз. № 3

Подлежит возврату через 6 ч. в 5-ое отделение

5-ое отделение:

Document 4.  
Telegram from London.  
June 11, 1944



3. Цензура запретила опубликование факта назначения генерала ОМАР БРЕДЛИ командующим 1 американской армией, участвующей в операции.

№ 870.

1. По сообщению редактора французской газеты "FRANC" КО-  
МЕРА, англичане приняли де-ГОЛЛЯ весьма приветливо, в сущности  
как главу французского правительства. С некоторых пор англичане  
определенно заигрывают с де-ГОЛЛЕМ, стараясь не обострять с  
ним отношения и об"ясняют непризнание его правительства  
исключительно упорством американцев. В то же время в журна-  
листских кругах распространяются сведения, что Москва отложила  
на некоторое время признание правительства де-ГОЛЛЯ по просьбе  
англичан.

2. Встреча де-ГОЛЛЯ с ЭЛЬЗЕНХАУЭРОМ свелась к обсуждению, чисто военных вопросов и де-ГОЛЛЯ это не удовлетворило. Придают большое значение той части выступления ЭЛЬЗЕНХАУЭРА, где он упомянул, что французский народ сам изберет свое правительство. Отсутствие в его речи упоминания об Алжирском комитете рассматривается как свидетельство того, что американцы твердо решили не признавать де-ГОЛЛЯ и не допускать его до поры до времени во Францию. Имеются разговоры, что американцы хотят предложить де-ГОЛЛЮ поездку в Вашингтон для того, чтобы держать его в ближайшие недели подальше от Франции.

3. Во французских кругах здесь утверждают, что побег французских реакционеров из Алжира в Испанское Марокко организован американцами.

4. Приехавший с де-ГОЛЛЕМ директор кабинета ПАЛЕВСКИЙ всюду жалуется, что СССР не захотел принять его в качестве представителя де-ГОЛЛЯ в Москве.

№ 871. 10/y1.44г.

5 отделение,

из газеты "ПРАВО" КО-Венно  
приветливо, в сущности  
некоторых пор англичане  
ясь не обострять с  
правительства  
же время в журналах  
что Москва отложила

Document 4.  
Telegram from London.  
June 11, 1944

ШИФРТЕЛЕГРАММА Вх. № 5836

343  
COB. CERPETHO

\*РАССЕКРЕЧЕНО

Из                      ЛОНДОНА

Получена „ 23/VI 194 г. 08 ч. 00 м. Расшифр. „ Служба внешней разведки РСФСР 16

Для резолюций  
и пометок

Кому адресована:

Хотя американское правительство отказалось послать своего представителя на соззание между английским правительством и представителями де-Голля в Лондоне, все же 19 июня соззание открылось. Целью соззания является заключение соглашения о гражданской администрации по такому же типу соглашений, какие были заключены между английским правительством и правительством Бельгии, Норвегии, Голландией. По окончании переговоров, соглашение будет направлено в Вашингтон. Оно будет подписано Эйзенхауэром. Если же американцы будут противиться подписанию его, то де-Голль полетит в Вашингтон.

чтобы добиться там подписания  
соглашения с представителем американского прави-  
тельства.

Датф Купер рассказал Ротпильду следующее:  
он убежден, что американцы имеют кроме де-Голля  
кого то Другого, кого они хотят поставить во  
главе французского правительства.

**Снятие копий категорически воспрещается**

СМ. НА ОБ.

Экз. № 1

Экз. № 2

В телеграмме адресованной английскому послу в Вашингтоне, говорится, что по данным англичан французские реакционные политические деятели, бежавшие недавно в Испанию и Португалию из Северно-Африки сделали это "с помощью американских и испанских властей".

912

Document 5.  
Telegram from London.  
June 23, 1944





More documents  
on the SVR of Russia site

Document 6.  
Telegram from Paris.  
November 23, 1944

Document 6.  
Telegram from Paris.  
November 23, 1944

621  
СОВ. СЕКРЕТНО

ШИФРТЕЛЕГРАММА Вр. № 11087

Служба внешней разведки РФ 10

Из ПАРИЖА

Получена 23/XI 1944 г. 16 ч. 00 м. Расшифр. 24/XI 1944 г. 01 ч. 00 м.

Для резолюций и пометок

Кому адресована:

Пока мы можем сообщить только общие данные об обстановке о пребывании в Париже Черчилля и Идена. Основными вопросами переговоров были вопросы западного блока, участие Франции в войне и подготовке будущего мира представление ей особой зоны оккупации в Германии, вооружение французской армии, а также Сирийский вопрос. Газеты писали о пребывании Черчилля в Париже в дружественных тонах однако не глубоко касаясь разрешаемых проблем. Идея создания западного блока, судя по имеющимся данным вызвала отрицательное отношение с французской стороны. Французская пресса не поддержала идеи создания блока. Круги близкие к министерству иностранных дел в частности газета "Лоб" выступила против этой идеи. Например, секретари совета сопротивления Менье и Гамберон, личные друзья Бидо рассказали что Бидо заявил, что ему удалось провалить идею западного блока. Французские руководящие круги выражают опасение, что Франция вступив в этот блок сможет превратиться в доминион Англии. Как шли переговоры де Голля с Чер-

Список копий кассетно-технически воспроизводится

Экз. № 1

Экз. № 2

Экз. № 3

Подлежит возврату через 6 суток в 5-ое отделение

5-ое отделение:

2.

чиллем нам неизвестно, однако можно считать симптоматичным ироническое заявление секретарши Бидо, что "Черчиллю было прохладно в Париже". Не ясно отношение американцев к блоку, во всяком случае они не проявляют к нему особого интереса. Бывший шведский журналист газеты "Социал-демократен" Бромберг рассказал, что ряд высших французских чиновников с которыми он говорил рассматривают этот блок как блок направленный против СССР. По их словам, при помощи блока Англия, якобы, пытается застраховать Францию от возможной экономической зависимости от СССР. Французы в частных разговорах с нами допускают экономическую необходимость такого блока, но указывают, что Франция не желает себя связывать, ибо такой блок означает подчинение ведущей державе т.е. Англии всех остальных. Они признают, что блок содержит в будущем антисоветские идеи. В блок должны были войти Англия, Франция, Бельгия, Голландия, Люксембург и Норвегия. Бельгия и Голландия больше всех стремятся к заключению этого блока. Это объясняется отсутствием у них интересов к Восточной Европе и настроенностью к СССР. Судя по всем этим данным де Голль попрежнему остается сторонником западного блока, не исключено, что в связи с предстоящей поездкой в Москву "похороны блока" являются лишь маневром. Принимаем меры выяснению действительного положения.

ИР 260 22/XI-44 г.

5 отделение:



# "Chief of intelligence"

On the occasion of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great Victory, "Razvedchik" talked to those who performed Soviet intelligence officers of the war years on the screen: Sergey Marin (who played the role of Pavel Fitin), Igor Petrenko (Alexander Korotkov) and Ekaterina Volkova (Elizaveta Zarubina). And also with Artem Chashchikhin-Toidze, general producer and scriptwriter of the television series "Chief of Intelligence", which premiered in April 2022 on Channel One.

Sergey Aleksandrovich, tell us how you prepared for the role of Pavel Fitin and is the image of a spy close to you?

In order to authentically recreate the image of Pavel Fitin, I read everything I could find, talked to SVR veterans and active intelligence officers. I was amazed and inspired by their comments about him. They said that Pavel Mikhailovich's appointment as head of intelligence predetermined its development for years to come. After all, he came to this post after the Yezhov era, essentially reassembled everything, recreated stations around the world, brought back experienced personnel...

The scale of the personality is enormous! But, unfortunately, only few people in Russia know who Fitin is. We worked on the film with German actors, and it turned out that in Germany they know him, but most of us — don't. Actually, to my shame, I hadn't heard anything about him before I was approved for the role.

Of course, impersonating such a character is a great responsibility. But at the same time, I have had a way to express my gratitude to this man, as well as to other foreign intelligence officers, for their contribution not only to the Victory over the Nazi Germany, but also to the preservation of peace on the planet. As it is known, Pavel Fitin stood at the origins of the Soviet atomic project. This storyline is almost not revealed in the film, but this is a very important milestone both in the biography of Pavel Mikhailovich and in the history of our country. After immersing myself in the role, I simply could not believe that such fabulous people could exist!

What do you think is the most difficult thing about the work of an intelligence officer and who is suitable for such work today?

Thoroughness and discipline are very important in intelligence, there is no room for limpness. And it is also very important to maintain the trust of others, which is built on openness and honesty. I wanted to show all this in my role.

Three years after the premiere, I often think of this film and of those who serve in intelligence today. I am sure that this work is not for every-

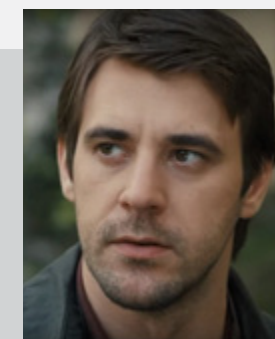
« Three years after the premiere, I often think of this film and of those who serve in intelligence today. I am sure that this work is not for everyone, it requires people of a special kind.

S.A. Marin

one, it requires people of a special kind. Some individual qualities can, perhaps, be cultivated: learning to hide emotions and tension, taking responsibility for extraordinary actions and difficult decisions. But all this should come as an addition to, so to speak, "factory settings", that is, to the core that a person should have inside from childhood and youth: from parents, cinema, literature. You just need to be able to reveal it in yourself.

What did you learn about Pavel Fitin from his family and friends?

I was allowed to look into the Fitin family photo album, and I felt the energy that surrounded him at home. He was open, sincere, cheerful for his children and grandchildren. It turned out that Pavel Mikhailovich was actively involved in sports, was fond of fishing. I imagined the level of contrast between work and home, and this was, perhaps, the only point where our worlds crossed. Actors, like intelligence officers, often have to wear masks, play roles, but the degree of risk, of course, is incomparable.



Sergey Aleksandrovich Marin

Was born on December 9, 1987 in the village of Dubrovka, Penza Region. After school, he entered the Penza College of Culture, then VGIK. He made his film debut at the age of 23 in the film Biker (2010), then starred in such films as Ekaterina (2014), Badaber Fortress (2018), Balkan Frontier (2019), Cathedral (2021), Point Zero (2024).





Igor Petrovich, your character, Alexander Korotkov, is called the king of intelligence. Was it difficult to play a real person?

It is always a huge responsibility. At the very least, there are those who remember him — relatives, colleagues, and also the organization that holds him up as an example to new generations. But I admit, the plot captivated me. When I received the script to review, I realized that I had never read anything better, if not in my whole life, then certainly since my youth.

I usually start working on a role by looking for similarities between the character's story and my own. But there are few parallels. Korotkov was born in Moscow, studied at the Sorbonne, and spent many years as a spy in France and Germany. I was born in Potsdam. My father is a military man. However, the scenes in German were the most difficult for me. I even wanted to ask my parents how it happened that I studied English at school.

I would like to point out that it is very difficult to shoot series like "Chief of Intelligence". This is a historical period, the viewer has to believe in the reality of what is happening on the screen, you cannot make a mistake in the facts, or allow the modern world into the frame. I remember filming in St. Petersburg, where Berlin of the 1940s was recreated with the help of decorations. When I went outside, I had the complete feeling that I was in Germany. The film crew managed to convey the atmosphere, the very life of that time. This is top notch. We must give credit to the entire team — a fusion of the skill of the director and cameraman, the fine work of the scriptwriters and artists. I wish more films like this were both made and watched.

In your opinion, are films about the Great Patriotic War interesting to modern viewers, especially young people, and is there a need for such films now?

It is necessary to make new films about that great war. This material is often presented in a dry manner at school, in textbooks, and Soviet films are of little interest to young people, a modern presentation is needed. It is very important that the connection between generations is not broken, we need to preserve the

Shots from TV series "Chief of Intelligence"

Fitin's relatives said he barely escaped dying as a teenager. A wave of upheaval swept over the entire country in those years. I am often asked what my hero's life motivation was. Of course, it's his love for the Motherland, and I believe that it arose right then, in his youth. Being in the grip of circumstances, he was always looking for a way to apply his knowledge and strength for the good of the Fatherland. I am sure that there are also such people today. Our intelligence officers are working, risking their lives, somewhere abroad right now, but we are unlikely to know anything about their work. This is their motto: "Without the right to glory, for the glory of the state".



Igor Petrovich Petrenko

was born on August 23, 1977 in Potsdam (GDR) in the family of an officer. In 2000 he graduated from the Mikhail Shchepkin Higher Theatre School, began

his career in the troupe of the Maly Theatre. He made his film debut in 2001, gained wide recognition after his role in the film "A Driver for Vera" (2004). Today his filmography has more than 70 films, including "A Hero of Our Time" (2006), "Taras Bulba" (2009), "Sherlock Holmes" (2013), "Sleepers" (2017), "Decision to Liquidate" (2018), "Sky" (2021), "Nuremberg" (2023).

memory of our victorious fathers and grandfathers. Unfortunately, I only found out at the age of 25 that one of my grandfathers on my mother's side was a front-line reconnaissance officer and fought in the war. It was an exciting discovery — to find a member of the family and to be introduced to his exploit.

What qualities do you think an intelligence officer needs today?

For me, intelligence is the most important tool for the country to develop successfully and for ordinary people to live happily. While working on the film, I realized that an intelligence officer must have incredible fortitude. Excellent health is not enough. You need a sharp mind, the ability to maintain control in any circumstances, under extreme emotional and physical stress. I think these are the minimum requirements.

Another difficult challenge for intelligence officer is loneliness. It is impossible to live several lives at once. Family, friends, colleagues will always be in the background so as not to interfere with the main task. At the same time, you have to keep evolving, keep rising above yourself. Our country needs exactly this kind of knights without fear and without reproach.

« It is very difficult to shoot series like "Chief of Intelligence". This is a historical period, the viewer has to believe in the reality of what is happening on the screen, you cannot make a mistake in the facts, or allow the modern world into the frame.

I.P. Petrenko







Ekaterina Yuryevna, you played the role of the Soviet intelligence officer Elizaveta Zarubina. Tell us, what inspired you to work on the role?

I was given several books about female spies. I also watched a documentary about Zarubina, "The Queen of Soviet Intelligence", and was immediately captivated. An incredible woman, she knew several languages! During the years of Jews' persecution in Germany, in order to hide her Jewish origins (editor's note: real name Esther Rosenzweig), she learned Italian on her own and successfully passed herself off

as an Italian. She had exceptional charm and, it seems to me, could get hold of any secrets.

Bringing such a bright, outstanding personality to life on screen is not an easy task. I remember an episode we filmed in the Yusupov Palace in Yalta: a reception at the American scientist Robert Oppenheimer's. According to the script, I had to give a speech in English so that everyone would understand that my character is not only a beautiful, but also an intelligent woman. You know, it is not easy to act in a foreign language, I took English lessons for this role. So when everything worked out, I was even more inspired by Zarubina. She could joke like a real foreigner, she knew how to win people over, which is very important in the work of an intelligence officer, because when people laugh together, it unites them.

Western cinema is dominated by the image of female spies as cunning seductresses; Zarubina's biography offers a different view. Which image is closer to you?

Now everyone, including me, of course, is interested in seeing the image of an intellectual spy on the screen. Zarubina was exactly like that. I am sure that she thought everything through to the smallest detail: what to say, how to look, so that others would perceive her as an equal. After all, it is a kind of art to dress correctly, especially in high society, where Zarubina man-



aged to penetrate. In addition, she was a good psychologist, able to gain people's trust. And she did it sincerely, otherwise people do not open up, they immediately feel the fake.

I think that the subject of women in intelligence is poorly explored in the cinema. It's even a shame for Zarubina, because she is a phenomenal intelligence officer. Her story needs to be told from the beginning to the end, there is so much interesting stuff there: Blumkin, Trotsky... People like Elizaveta Yulievna certainly deserve to be remembered for their exploits, their enormous contribution to the country's security and our Victory. Despite some similarities with the profession of an actor, intelligence work is not theater at all, the risks are incommensurable. An intelligence officer must act so brilliantly that everyone believe him, otherwise it's a failure. And Zarubina is a top-notch actress in this regard. I sincerely hope that someday they will make a separate film about her, which will be called "Vardo" — that was Elizaveta Zarubina's pseudonym.

Young people today hardly go to the cinema or watch TV. How can we educate them, instill patriotism? Do you have a recipe?

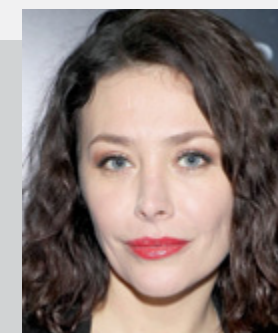
There is only one recipe: continue making quality patriotic films, including films about intelligence, then young people will be interested in them. They will watch them online or go to the cinema. For example, I organize family screenings at home, choose a film and invite my children. They usually like what I offer.

« I think that the subject of women in intelligence is poorly explored in the cinema. It's even a shame for Zarubina, because she is a phenomenal intelligence officer. Her story needs to be told from the beginning to the end, there is so much interesting stuff there...

E.Y. Volkova

I am convinced that films should form the right attitude to life in young people, instill a sense of duty. Such moments should be written into scripts, special situations should be created for the heroes. There is no other way. It is impossible to raise a full-fledged citizen, a patriot of his country without a sense of duty. A child should have an understanding, since infancy, of what the Motherland is and why it is important to protect it.

We have a very strong film school; we are heirs of a great culture. And it is very important for us not to lose this heritage. In order to survive in the modern world, we need to rely on our history, on the wisdom of our ancestors, then we will be head and shoulders above everyone else and will be able to win. Like Elizaveta Zarubina, who needed, metaphorically speaking, to be smarter than Einstein, to outplay him. And she did it!



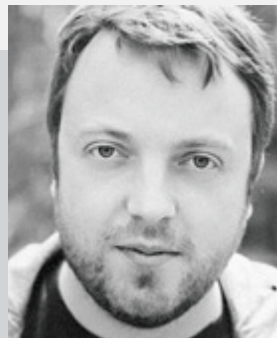
Ekaterina Yuryevna Volkova

was born on March 16, 1974 in Tomsk. She entered the Yaroslavl Theatre Institute in 1995, and in her third year, she transferred to GITIS (Russian Institute of Theatre Arts). After graduation, she worked at the Russian Academic Youth Theatre, the Stanislavsky Theatre in Moscow, and the Bulgakov Theatre-Museum. Played over 100 roles in theatre and cinema. She is known for such films and TV series as The Collector (2001), KGB in a Tuxedo (2005), Double Life (2013), Wind in the Face (2014), Women in Love (2015), and The Ambulance (2018).

Shots from TV series "Chief of Intelligence"







### Artem Borisovich Chashchikhin-Toidze

was born on May 27, 1979 in Moscow. He began his producing career in 2003 with the documentary film "Kennedy Assassination: The 13<sup>th</sup> Version". He is a producer and screenwriter of the documentary film series about intelligence "Duels", the films "Messing's Apprentice" (2017), "Undercover Taxi" (2022) and many others. Director of films "Khrushchev Does America" (2013), "Japan: Judgement Day" (2016).

**Artem Borisovich, "Chief of Intelligence" is not your first project about the national foreign intelligence. Before that, there was the documentary series "Duels", which was warmly welcomed by the audience. Tell us where the interest in this subject comes from?**

I inherited the subject, you could say (laughs). My stepfather, a Soviet documentary filmmaker and later Russian producer, Alexander Ivankin, infected me with an interest in intelligence in my adolescence, since this topic had fascinated him madly all his life. I had heard the names of intelligence officers since childhood, and in the early 1990s I was lucky enough to person-

ally communicate with many of them, for example, with Pavel Sudoplatov, Morris Cohen, when my stepfather recorded interviews with them for history.

Films about intelligence are an eternal and inexhaustible subject. Everything that concerns secrets and mysteries will always be of interest to the general public. And even if new names do not appear in the public sphere as often as we, filmmakers, would like, there is still much more to be done on already known, declassified materials. For example, I have long wanted to tell the story of Dmitry Bystroletov. A wonderful series could be made about Sudoplatov. And these would be completely different films, even different genres. Because in intelligence, almost all the heroes are unique people with dissimilar destinies. In general, this topic holds me, it is very interesting to me and, I have no doubt, to my viewer. Intelligence is an integral part of the country's history; it is woven into the annals of the state. And it is important to know history in order not to repeat mistakes.

**Should cinema have an educational function and who is your target audience?**

When I work on a film, oddly enough, I always focus on myself. If the material is interesting and understandable to me, I think it will captivate both a 16-year-old and an 80-year-old. And this applies not only to artistic works. When I was

working on documentary projects, I also tried to make the presentation as comprehensible as possible, so that everyone could find something for themselves in the film, taking into account their life experience.

At the same time, I never set myself the task of making a patriotic film. I think that this is basically the wrong approach. The main thing is to make a good film. If the plot and theme are relevant, there is a good idea, a serious story with its own dramaturgy, then there will definitely be patriotism in it, and success of such a film is guaranteed. By the way, the same "Chief of Intelligence" broke records here: it was shown three times in prime time on Channel One in two years, it has excellent ratings in online cinemas, and we still receive letters of gratitude from viewers.

**Western films about intelligence are usually action films with chases, fights, shootouts. Do you have any desire to make something similar?**

It is also possible to make a fairy tale about a symbolic "Russian James Bond" — a robust guy who sleeps with all the beauties of the world, and in between runs around the countries and continents, shooting left and right with his eyes closed — but that is not my genre. I still like to start from reality. All the scripts of our film company "Tochka" on the subject of intelligence are a fusion of historical facts, of what can be read in books, documents, and of fiction. In "Chief of Intelligence" this proportion, for example, is about 70:30, in favor of the truth, of course.

Why was I particularly interested in telling about Fitin? For a long time only a narrow circle of professionals had known about his work, and for most people he had been a completely unknown person. Thanks to the series, his memory was revived, his name returned to the information field. I think this is a worthy goal to make a film. For me, the most pleasant thing is when after watching people say: "Wow, how interesting! I'll read something else about Fitin". This is precisely the super task. If the film "hooked" so much that a person thought about it, decided to learn something additional, then the work was not in vain.

« Films about intelligence are an eternal and inexhaustible subject. Everything that concerns secrets and mysteries will always be of interest to the general public.

A.B. Chashchikhin-Toidze

**Are you planning to make a sequel?**

I'll share a bit of inside information: the other day we finished writing the script for a new series with the working title "Chief of Intelligence. Cambridge Five". This is not a direct sequel, but what is called a "spin-off". That is, the same Fitin, Korotkov, Sudoplatov will appear in the film, but the focus is on the work of the "Cambridge Five", our legendary sources in Britain. The series will consist of ten episodes and cover a huge period of time: from 1933 to 1951. I guarantee that it will be interesting. We plan to film everything within the next year, and the premiere is expected closer to the end of 2026. 🚀

Interviewed by  
Vladislav Ilyin

The film set of the  
TV series "Chief of  
Intelligence"

Shots from TV  
series "Chief of  
Intelligence"







**General Director of the Victory Museum  
Alexander Shkolnik:**  
**"We are doing our best so that  
every visitor can feel a sense of  
belonging to a great history"**

Alexander Yakovlevich, in 2025 our country celebrates the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great Victory. What events is the main Russian military history museum preparing?

The 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory is an event of universe-wide historical significance, for which we are thoroughly preparing and doing our best to meet its scale and people's expectations. All activities of the Victory Museum in 2025 will be held under the sign of the anniversary, and the Museum itself, I am sure, will become one of the main venues for the festive events.

The central event of the exhibition will be the opening of a new large-scale exhibition "The Way to Victory", dedicated to the military feat of the Red Army soldiers. The combination of personal stories, which always make a vivid memory, with modern technological and digital solutions that immerse you in the atmosphere of the 1940s, will allow you to get a better understanding of the war. The project is unique because along with the exploits of military leaders and heroes, it shows the fates of ordinary soldiers, the nature of the Red Army soldiers' heroism, as well as the contribution of each region of the Russian Federation and the CIS countries to the Victory.

The exhibition will involve the latest principles of the "museum triad", which is based

on a harmonious solution to contrasting tasks: preserving relics and introducing innovations, entertainment and education, public availability of materials and unique presentation.

In addition to the main anniversary event, other activities dedicated to the Great Patriotic War and the post-war period are scheduled. The exhibition "80 Years Under the Sign of Victory" will show what our country has achieved over the past eight decades. The Victory Parades project will tell about the celebrations of May 1945 in Moscow and Berlin, symbolizing the triumph of the winning people. As always, art exhibitions are being prepared. Thus, as part of the annual Victory Vernisage project, we are planning to present works of the artists and sculptors who took part in the creativity competition "A Look at the Great Victory through the Years".

The Museum will also host the International Historical and Cultural Forum "Victory in Unity", to which we would like to invite members of foreign military-historical and public organizations, as well as scientists and government officials — all those whose efforts are aimed at preserving historical memory. In addition, three scientific and practical conferences dedicated to the Victory of the Soviet people in the Great Patriotic War are scheduled.



**Aleksandr Yakovlevich Shkolnik**

was born on March 25, 1964 in Nizhny Tagil (Sverdlovsk Region). He graduated from the journalism department of the A.M. Gorky Ural State University. In 1999, he became Candidate of Pedagogic Sciences, in 2012, received Master's Degree in the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration. From 2003 to 2007, he was the chief of the Directorate of Children and Youth Programmes of the Channel One, producer of children's broadcasting. In 2008–2009, he was a member of the Federation Council from the Sverdlovsk Region, then worked as assistant of the authorized representative of the President in the Volga Federal District of Russia and in the Irkutsk Region government. In 2012–2016, he was president of the "Multimedia Holding". In April 2017, he was appointed General Director of the Central Museum of the Great Patriotic War of 1941–1945 (Victory Museum). Since 2020 he's been Deputy Secretary of the Public Chamber of the Russian Federation.



« The 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory is an event of universe-wide historical significance, for which we are thoroughly preparing and doing our best to meet its scale and people's expectations.

What is the role of the Victory Museum in today's reality?

At the exhibition  
"Faithful to the  
legacy" 2024



minds of the younger generation, cultivate in children love for the Russian history and culture. And to achieve that, it is necessary not only to open interesting exhibitions and expositions, but to use modern solutions and nonstandard techniques while preparing them, sometimes going beyond the framework of traditional museum activities.

I would also like to note that the Museum regularly organizes car rallies, the Victory Waltz flash mob, cadet balls and the cadet movement's parades. For the youngest audience, concerts are held with the participation of performers from the Main Children's Songs project, finalists of the Cranes of Victory competition and the Musical Theater "On Poklonka". A bright event in the anniversary year will certainly be the 5<sup>th</sup> International Festival of Right Cinema, which will be held at the Museum from April 30 to May 10.

This year the Museum is also celebrating its own anniversary — 30 years. How much has it transformed over the past time and what is planned for its further development?

The decision to create the Central Museum of the Great Patriotic War of 1941–1945 was made back in 1986, but the official opening took place on May 9, 1995. Over the past three decades, the Victory Museum has opened four branches — in Krasnogorsk and Rzhev (including the Museum "Stalin's Headquarters" and the Soviet Soldier Monument in Rzhev), as well as the G.K. Zhukov Museum in the Kaluga Region and the Museum "Main Weapons Relics of the Army" on Poklonnaya Hill.

Today I can say with certainty that the Victory Museum is the main military history museum in Russia dedicated to the Great Patriotic War and World War II and one of the largest military history museums in the world. Besides it is an all-Russian scientific research, cultural and educational center, as well as a leading institute for countering attempts to falsify history.

Our main audience is the younger generation, so we pay special attention to activities that help children and young people to perceive historical knowledge consciously, create emo-

tional response in them, and awaken interest in the profound study of the country's cultural and historical heritage. It allows us to solve not only educational tasks, but also state tasks, to ensure the continuity of generations, to preserve traditions and historical memory.

In recent years, the Museum has changed a lot — it has become modern and technological. Your master classes, quests and other interactive projects seem to be popular with guests of all ages. How interesting are military topics to visitors now?

In recent years, interest in patriotic and military topics has increased significantly in our country. There is a growing demand for educational tourist trips, travel to places of military glory and other significant events in Russian history. This shows how much people, including young people, need to learn more about the past, to get in touch with the roots, to draw spiritual strength from the exploits of their ancestors.

The Victory Museum tries to respond to the needs of young people and actively introduces the latest multimedia technologies into its practice. Five years ago, to the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Victory, we opened a unique large-scale exhibition "The Feat of the People", and to the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Soviet troops' counteroffensive near Moscow — the exposition "Battle for Moscow. The First Victory". Here interactive maps, display showcases, catalogs are combined with 3D panoramas, holographic projections — with reconstruction films, and architectural 3D mapping — with historical rarities.

However, it is not enough to create a unique museum space; it is necessary to prepare entertaining programs that can attract young visitors as well. Therefore, together with the Department of Education and Science of Moscow, we've developed educational quests that provide an opportunity to feel like participants in historical events and immerse themselves in the atmosphere of those years.

It is important that our country should remember the Soviet people's feat not only on May 9, but throughout the year. Therefore, in ad-



dition to major events and activities on dates that are significant for all Russians (for example, the "Candle of Memory" on June 22), the Museum itself creates holidays. Among them is the Day of the Frontline Dog, which Russians have long taken a fancy to, and which

Expositions "Battle for Moscow. The First Victory" (upper) and "The Feat of the People"

« Today, as never before, the entire museum community is faced with the task of attracting younger audiences.



has become a nationwide event. We also do our best to ensure that every visitor can feel involved in great history. For this purpose, the Faces of Victory project was launched back in 2019, where anyone can contribute to the creation of the largest war generation database, thus inscribing each family history in the general chronicle of the Soviet people's feat.

Expositions "Common Nazism" and "Common NATOzism"



« It is important that our country should remember the Soviet people's feat not only on May 9, but throughout the year.

Not long ago, the Victory Museum initiated the creation of children's educational centers in new territories of Russia. Could you tell us more about this project?

We work a lot in new regions and, of course, we give priority attention to children, involving them in participation in all-Russian projects and events. With our assistance, multifunctional centers have been opened in Alchevsk, as well as in the villages of Markovka and Dmitrovka, where various workshops and quizzes are held, historical lectures and exhibitions are organized. Last year, more than ten expositions of the Victory Museum and other museums — participants of the Territory of Victory project were displayed in the LPR and DPR. And in Dmitrovka (DPR) a new permanent exposition — "There is no oblivion to courage!" — was set up with our assistance in the military-historical museum "White Lily".

I would like to note that we provide free assistance to colleagues from new regions. For example, last year the museum in the village of Markovka received exhibition, computer and technical equipment, scientific and methodological literature, and photographic materials. This year we intend to use these materials to organize four multimedia exhibitions and film screenings. By the way, patriotic films are in great demand among residents of the new territories. In 2024, at the "Festival of Right Cinema" more than 330 cinema shows were held at 79 venues in the LPR, DPR and Zaporozhye Region, and I think we'll keep up the pace this year as well.

You have mentioned the Territory of Victory project, in which foreign museums are also participating. How are things going with its implementation and has the international cooperation format changed since the beginning of the Special Military Operation?

The Territory of Victory project has been implemented since 2017. During this time, more than two thousand all-Russian and international exhibitions, over 70 events and 10 contests have already taken place. Many of them have become annual. The permanent partners of the project are 17 museums from such countries as Abkhazia, Azerbaijan, Armenia,

Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. The most active participants are museums of Belarus (11 cultural sites).

Despite the difficult international situation, the work continues. Last year, about 60 exhibitions were organized, which were held online and offline in the Rossotrudnichestvo representative offices. The Krasnogorsk branch of the Victory Museum hosted a photo documentary installation "Stalag XVIII D. 5000 steps to immortality", prepared jointly with the International Research Center Mari-bor. At the end of January, an international online conference "In the Fight for Leningrad" was held, dedicated to the 81st anniversary of the complete liberation of the city from the fascist blockade. Representatives of such countries as Hungary, India, Spain, Malaysia, Thailand, and France took part in this conference, organized by the Victory Museum.

In general, I would like to note that the Victory Museum enjoys great interest among for-



eigners. About 80 delegations from 50 countries visited our museum last year and we expect that their number will only increase in the anniversary year. 🚩

Interviewed by Mikhail Pogudin





# In spite of all deaths

Text by Irina Guro (Raisa Sobol), Soviet intelligence officer and writer, state security captain

Drawings: Sergey Dorozhenko

## Comrade K.

(published in abbreviated form)

In the reports of the Information Bureau he was called "Comrade K". We called him simply Kolya. There was nothing surprising about this: he had just turned nineteen. He was not tall, which he took painfully. In his dreams he probably saw himself as a fair-haired giant with magnificent muscles and a commanding look of steely eyes. In reality he was a puny young man. There was no talk of a "steely look", his eyes were narrow, Mongolian-type. When he forgot to frown his short eyebrows, his face acquired an expression of some kind of boyish defenselessness. But even when he frowned, it did not help.

I don't remember his real name, and most likely I didn't know it back then either. Almost all of us in the detachment, that was pompously called the partisan "Association", had fictitious names. Everything in the world is relative. In the partisan war, there was also a rear and a front line. We, the workers of the forest headquarters, were the rear. The front line was the partisan "brigades", and the most advanced line, contrary to the regulations, was considered to be Comrade K.'s detachment, Kolya's detachment. It had a strict performance profile: it blew up trains. Trains with equipment. With provisions. With manpower. And also with various, sometimes unexpected fillings.

Along the main line, along the tracks, quickly rebuilt to German dimensions, trains were constantly moving. They carried soldiers and guns, security units and equipment for crematoria, Gesheftsführers and German shepherds, prostitutes and "tonfilms" for German soldiers — all the various utensils of the "new order" — to the occupied zone.

On the way back there were trains with flour and lard, with broken military equipment and blood-stained clothes of killed soldiers and officers, stingily collected on the battlefields; with rarities from robbed museums and junk carried from apartments; with valuables and gold teeth of those murdered in the camps, and their hair, carefully sorted and packaged, like any commodity that circulates on the market.

The trains were serviced by railway workers brought in from Germany, who wore a white armband with the inscription Deutsche Reichsbahn (German state road) on their sleeves and pistols on their bellies. They received soldiers rations because they risked their lives like soldiers. And they wrote letters home about how invisible death was waiting for them somewhere.

The approaches to the railway were carefully guarded by military units and special security guards from the police and "trusted persons". Three times a day the guards at the line were replaced, dog handlers held the bestial shepherds on short leashes. Wire was stretched along the railway track, connected to flare guns that mechanically ejected flares at the slightest touch, or to signal bells. In the strip of land adjacent to the line, the grass was mown and the unevenness of the ground was leveled, and further away, hanging mines were placed among bushes. A platform with sand was attached in front of the locomotive, and a control trolley was released onto the line ahead of the train...

But all this, carried out with scrupulous precision, could not protect the "German state road" from the terrible destructive action of that phenomenon, incomprehensible to the Germans — and therefore even more terrible for them — which they called "the war of darkness" and which they considered "savage", "Asiatic",

"purely Russian". It lifted bridges into the air and derailed trains, and the more incomprehensible it was, the more inevitable and dangerous it seemed to the Germans.

Comrade K.'s detachment did its job with the thoroughness with which a craftsman who respects his labour works under normal conditions. And the people in the detachment were workers, firm, self-confident. Almost all of them had served on the railroad before the invasion: there were engine drivers, couplers, a conductor of international carriages, and the track walker Savvushka, already grey-moustached, who came to the detachment with his grandchildren.

The ardor and courage of the nineteen-year-old commander combined well with the calm courage of his men.

Everyone wore captured uniforms: their own clothes had worn out. They ripped off stripes and ribs and put on German uniforms. And only Savvushka managed to save his work clothes: a black leather jacket and neat cloth trousers. And he put on this suit when he went out with the detachment to the railway, as if emphasizing that this was work for him, first and foremost work.

It is clear that we, the "rear" troops, were glad when Comrade K. arrived at our forest headquarters. With him, the hot breath of the unconquered railway burst into our dugout.

And although we ourselves were scorched by the heat of clashes with the police and punitive forces, the demolition operations — often bloodless on our part, sometimes even without a single shot — had a special interest and attraction for us.

But here was the snag: Kolya was not much of a story-teller. And he didn't feel like telling anything "about it", anyway. "Well, we set out. Well, we blew it up. Well, the Fritzes jumped out of the burning cars. Well, we shoot at them and off we go!" — all that sort of thing. Comrade K. didn't see anything heroic, or even interesting, in his work. It was work. Combat one? Yes! Risky one? Yes! But it was work.

Meanwhile, Kolya was not a silent guy at all. On the contrary. When we lay down on our trestle beds cut by our skilled carpenter (who was also a gunsmith) Silych, put out the "bat" lantern, and silence fell onto the "headquarters hut", the youthful voice of Comrade K. babbled on and on, and one story followed another, still more unusual.





But they left us indifferent, and we fell asleep without ceremony. Kolya was not offended. He himself enjoyed his stories, he revelled in them. They seemed to him to justify his "ordinary", "prosaic" fussing with explosives, "simplified detonators" and all this "base" technology. In his stories he presented his dreams as reality. All his stories were made up from beginning to end. They were not even in the least plausible. And Kolya did not care about that at all. It was impossible, well, simply unthinkable to believe that Kolya, dressed as an SS officer, could have gotten to a ball at the city council, demonstrated his wit there — and this despite knowing only two German phrases: "Hände hoch" and "komm nah"! — and danced with the Gauleiter's wife. That the same Kolya, having been exposed, would have broken free from the hands of an entire Standartenführer and saved by the burgomaster's young niece who allegedly fell in love with him...

But we didn't judge Kolya harshly for his shameless lies: we even liked them.

Our Vasilyich, a straightforward and reasonable man, tried to explain to Kolya that his subversive activities were where true heroism lay, and that his inventions were simply an unworthy occupation for a combat commander. He did not need to adorn himself with invented exploits.

Comrade K. nodded his head in agreement, but his face became very, very bored. And if someone happened to pay tribute to his deeds, to say good words about the demolition squad, Kolya even looked guilty: like, is it worth talking about this? <...> Our troops moved forward, and we came out of the forests. I went to the front and lost sight of Comrade K.

And suddenly I met him by chance at the division headquarters — already a lieutenant, a platoon commander.

Of course, he had matured, grown stronger, and there was little of the boyishness left in his appearance. On his chest glittered a golden Hero star.

"For the rails?" I asked.

"For the rails!" he confirmed, and a familiar expression of shyness, bewilderment, and even sort of guilt appeared on his face.

## In spite of all deaths

I saw her for the first time at night, in a forest clearing. And that's why I didn't see her very well.

Together with the signalman Sashok, we were returning to our partisan "headquarters". There was no shooting. The forest was silent. And the only reminder of the war was the glow above its edge. It had been burning on three sides for many days: the Nazis were burning villages.

Suddenly, with our accustomed ears, we caught distant rustles: people were moving somewhere, carelessly, without skill, breaking branches, rustling dry leaves.

The most important thing for us was: how many of them? Because they could only be Germans. However...

— But we have all sorts of things strapped to us! — my companion said.

Indeed, we were armed, as they say, up to the teeth: German machine guns, pistols, grenades in our belts. We lay down in the moss, in the wind-fall trees, and waited. The steps were approaching, but they were not at all like the clatter of hobnailed German boots.

Four girls came out of the thicket into the clearing. It was possible that these were villagers who had fled from the Germans and were looking for partisans. Nothing surprising: our detachment sent leaflets to the surrounding villages with scouts, and they met responses.



But something in the appearance of the girls ruled out this assumption. They were dressed in civilian clothes, but with a distinct military smartness: tightened belts on new quilted jackets, caps with earflaps, neat boots, everything was of good quality, carefully fitted. That is, exactly what we had on when we were sent into the forests. And now it looked strange.

— "Halt!" — my companion shouted just in case, rising to his full height.

An immediate reorganization took place. One of the girls — we realized that this was their eldest — stepped forward, as if covering the others. She raised her hand: there was a pistol in it.

— Throw down your gun! — I ordered. — Come up!

Meanwhile, Sashko asked disrespectfully:

— Ran away from kindergarten? Broke away from the nursery?

But they had already noticed the ribbons on our caps.

— Are you really partisans? — the eldest girl asked, looking at us with wide eyes. She was tall, dark-haired and dark-eyed, about seventeen years old.

— No, we are SS men in disguise, — my companion declared.

The girls smiled uncertainly. Then they told us that they were looking for partisans. Where they were from, where they had been equipped, who had sent them, how they had got here — they flatly refused to explain.

— From there? — I asked, pointing my finger upward.

They were silent. However, it did not look like they had been dropped with parachutes. Of course, the landing could have been imprecise, this happened, but the unit had radios, and from the mainland they would have informed us about the upcoming drop.

— We will tell everything to the unit commander or the commissar, — the eldest one de-







clared. It was Masha. At that time the nickname "In Spite of All Deaths" had not yet stuck to her. The fact that they knew about the existence of a commissar in the unit — and this was a new thing for us — proved that the girls had been oriented. Just in case, we declared that from here to the unit was "like to a star in the sky", after which we took a decision: I would stay here with them, and Sashko would go to the headquarters for instructions. That's when we got acquainted, there in the clearing. Three of them were local, one was a Muscovite. Short, everyday biographies: school, pioneers, Komsomol. They seemed to be climbing the steps of life: each step had its own beginning and end. They sang the song "If tomorrow is war, if tomorrow we go on a march...". They shot at the shooting range and on the firing range. But deep down, no one believed that tomorrow would be war, nor that they themselves would be soldiers. They did not believe it even when applications had already been submitted to the district commit-

tee of the Komsomol: "Please take me to work behind enemy lines...". Nor when a picky, strict survey "filtered" the volunteers. Nor even when the training began.

They completed a "course of skills": learned to throw grenades, crawl on their bellies, "bite" a telephone wire, chat a little in German. They needed all this like bread, like water. They crossed the invisible front line on their feet, navigating with a map.

Masha was from a small town in the Smolensk region. She stayed in our partisan headquarters, her friends went to the brigades.

Masha quickly settled in with us. Her "sorties" to the enemy's rear were always successful. She had an unremarkable appearance, she knew how to dissolve among the girls of the villages occupied by the Germans. She managed not to run into a policeman or a voluntary traitor.

However, the nickname "In Spite of All Deaths" did not arise from this. Masha simply loved Konstantin Simonov's poems and often repeated: "Wait for me, and I'll come back in spite of all deaths!" And she really did return, always. She would come tired, dirty, in a shabby quilted jacket and a torn skirt, whipped by bushes, covered in dust.

We lived richly then: not in dugouts, but in the village. Masha changed into the ordinary clothes of partisan girls, which she wore with naive smartness: a cotton gymnastyorka, over it a woolen sleeveless jacket trimmed with hare fur, a Kubanka hat with a red ribbon in place of the star. On her belt was a pistol on a long trophy chain in the form of shiny cylinders strung on wire.

One day Masha returned without completing the task.

— Why did you come back? — I asked.

— I was very scared. There was a polizei there — a distant relative of mine. I saw him once, when I was still a girl, at my aunt's wedding. He didn't seem to recognize me, but I think he was pretending...

— Why are you scared then? He was pretending — that means he wasn't going to harm you...

— Oh my! If he's a polizei, that's it!

Masha was sincere and straightforward. Only a very cruel war could teach her to pretend, to play the role of a dark, silly girl from a distant village and cleverly hide her true face.

Batya wanted to put Masha on trial for the failure of the mission. But I defended her, said that I would send her back.

Masha went a second time, completed the mission, and said in confusion about her relative that the Germans had put him behind bars. There was a rumor that he was helping the partisans.

— You see, — I said.

One day, a burly guy with a white police armband on his sleeve was brought to the headquarters. He had our leaflet.

— He was hanging around on the edge of the forest. He saw us, threw his carbine in front of him and shoved the leaflet at us. "Brothers", he said, "I'm a polizei, I've come to give myself up", the senior reported.

They led him blindfolded so that he wouldn't find out where we were. But as soon as they untied him, the guy said, grinning:

— Uhhah, there you are! Lake Rachye is right ahead. And behind you is the ravine.

— Okay, okay, — I interrupted, — you'd better tell me, how did you escape the army?

The guy silently pressed on his eyelid and took out the glass eye.

— I see. Fix it back, — I said. — And how did you end up in the police?

— It was simple. They herded everyone into a barn, didn't give us anything to drink or eat for a day. And then the interpreter announced that anyone who didn't want to be flogged should sign up for the police. I signed up.

— How did you serve? Did you flog others?

— No. They didn't put me to flogging.

— And where did they put you?

— On duty. They were looking for partisans.

— Did they find them?

— No.

At that moment, Chief of Staff Vasilich entered the hut.

— Was it you who burned the villages? — he asked straight away.

— I was, — the bloke answered.

— What did you think, we would thank you for this?

The boy lowered his head and mumbled:

— I want to atone for it.

— Too late! — and Vasilich ordered him to be put in the bathhouse.

— Insincere, — Vasilich concluded, — a roguish look, eyes darting around.

— They can't dart around. One is made of glass, where would he dart? And the other one is an ordinary eye. — It seemed to me that the guy, on the contrary, was speaking frankly. And we promised forgiveness in the leaflet.

— He's probably sent by the Germans, — Vasilich said.

— Not necessarily. And he has our leaflet, — I added, — signed by Batya. And we can't keep him in the bathhouse forever.

— True.

They released the one-eyed guy and told Masha to keep an eye on him, since she was idle for now.

The nearby villages were flooded with partisan leaflets. In them, we addressed the residents of areas temporarily captured by the enemy, the youth of temporarily captured..., and separately — the girls. There was another leaflet — specifically for the police. It offered to go over to the partisans with weapons and promised forgiveness for "deeds committed while a policeman". Sometimes the policemen did come. Suspicious people also showed up, probably





German agents. We had no time to deal with them, and we sent them to the mainland, fortunately there was still a passage "on foot" then. But now the passage was closed, and we didn't know what to do with this one-eyed guy.

We reported to Batya, he got angry:

— Why are you pestering me with all this crap?

Savvushka the demolition man said:

— Slap him, the bastard, and be done with it!

Masha heard and spoke out unexpectedly:

— Well, that's not necessary. He can be very useful. His name is Vaska.

— Deadly logic, — said Vasilich. — And what good is he, your useful Vaska?

— His cousin's Shchekotov's mistress, that's what. We exchanged glances.

— Why didn't he say so right away?

— Well, you didn't ask him.

— He's probably lying, — Savvushka suggested. Vasilyich thought about it.

— Listen! — Sashko intervened excitedly. — Let him go back and kill Shchekotov.

— Of course! He'll bring the punitive brigade after us — that's what he'll do, — Savvushka insisted.

The question of the one-eyed man's fate remained open.

And the next day Vaska disappeared.

We jumped on Masha: how'd you let him escape? We'd ordered you to keep an eye on him.

— Keeping an eye on him doesn't mean standing guard, — Masha answered carelessly.

And Vasilyich ordered Masha to be put in the bathhouse for five days for losing her vigilance. Masha was sitting in the bathhouse. The girls brought her horsemeat pies and in the evenings sang the song "Blue Scarf" under the bathhouse window in a low voice, like the partisans used to sing. And Masha sang along in the bathhouse.

A week later, our intelligence brought an announcement torn down from a pole, signed by the chief of police. And it was not Shchekotov. Where was Shchekotov? We found out where.

Shchekotov was gone. Killed by "unknown assailants". Under what circumstances? A grenade was thrown through the window.

— It's Vaska! — Masha screamed.

— No, she's crazy. She's crazy about one-eyed Vaska, — said Savvushka.

— I know, — there was something hidden in Masha's words.

— What exactly do you know? — Vasilich asked in an icy voice.

— That I gave him a grenade. And I walked him to Stary Brod. That's what I know, — Masha answered defiantly.

— We will try you in a partisan court, — Vasilich promised.

And reported to Batya. The reaction was unexpected:

— You didn't think of it, but she did. Where is the one-eyed man? Look for the one-eyed man. It's him. No one else could. There are guards at Shchekotov's house. They could only let one of their people in. Especially at night. And thank Masha for her ingenuity.

We didn't find the one-eyed man. Much later we learned that he managed to escape, he wandered around the forest for a long time and came to another partisan detachment.

Masha noted maliciously:

— He didn't want to come to us. What was his point in coming back to us? Just to be dealt away with?

Long before the end of the war, I lost sight of Masha. I met her only in peaceful days. And, strangely enough, again in the forest. The Moscow-Novgorod regular bus stopped on the road, the driver started changing a tire. And we wandered off in all directions.

A trampled path led me to a clearing. An unexpected picture opened up before me. It was some kind of imitation of a partisan camp. In the middle of the clearing a small fire was burning, above it a cauldron on a tripod was set up. A boy of about twelve was sitting over a map, intently moving a pencil along it.

I was stopped by a belated shout from the "patrol":

— Who goes there? The password!

— In spite of all deaths! — I answered at random.

— Stay here. Throw down your weapons! — the patrolboy commanded and sent a comrade:

— Call Marya Pavlovna.

— Who is that? — I asked, sitting down on the grass.

— Our teacher.

I heard an excited child's voice report not far away in the bushes:

— Doesn't know the password. Says: "In spite of all deaths!"

A pause. And quick steps straight through the thicket...

It was Masha. She introduced me to her students, and I told them a little about their teacher's partisan days.

I also mentioned that in the detachment they called her "In Spite of All Deaths" — they didn't know that.

"That's because she was so brave!" the carrot-haired boy didn't ask, but rather explained in a voice hoarse with excitement.

Masha, laughing, said that these were just words from a poem that she loved to repeat.

But no one believed her. ♡



**Raissa Romanovna Sobol**

Was born on May 6, 1904 in Kyiv to a factory director. She left home at the age of 15, deciding to devote her life to the class struggle. She joined a youth commune and organized red youth circles. In 1921, she was sent by the Komsomol to study at the law faculty of the Kharkov Institute of

National Economy. After graduation, she worked in the judiciary. In 1926, she was recommended for service in the economic department of the OGPU, in 1930 she was transferred to the foreign department (foreign intelligence), went on missions to France and Germany. In 1938, she was arrested on false charges and sentenced to eight years in the camps. She was released in September 1941 and worked in the Special Department of the Southwestern Front. From August 1942 until the end of the war, she was an instructor in the reconnaissance detachment of the headquarters of the Northern Group of Partisans. She was awarded the Order of the Patriotic War, 2nd class, two medals "For Courage", medals "Partisan of the Patriotic War", 1st class, "For the Defense of Moscow", and "For the Victory over Germany". In 1945, she resigned from the security services and took up writing (literary pseudonym Irina Guro). Author of the books "Bon Voyage, Kuminisa" (1950), "On the Harsh Slope" (1953), "In Spite of All Deaths" (1964), "The Road to Rubezahl" (1966) and others. She died on June 29, 1988.



# Wind of Victory



## Viktor Kiryushin

### We remain

We follow the flock of geese,  
But we remain with you, oh, river,  
With this blazing bitter aspen,  
With the field, not cooled yet.

With this country road, where cars get stuck  
And wires hopelessly hum,  
With the grove, stitched by dull rains,  
Strewed with shining spangles of the first ice.

We remain because we are unable to part  
With the sky, where an early star grows ripe,  
With the impenetrable gloom of the stations  
Past which the fast trains implacably fly.

We remain with our villages and muds,  
Having got stuck in need and trouble,  
Under the endless, pitiful, and womanish  
Cosmic howl of the Russian snowstorm.

What holds us? We've got no answer to that...  
But everyone knows deep in his heart:  
Only on this very plot of the world  
We are just able to remain ourselves.

### Aspen hill

*A monument to military  
drivers near Bryansk*

I stand on quiet Aspen Hill  
And silently look at the cold granite,  
That keeps the memory of bitter times,  
The memory of proud times.  
From a distance, severe and snowy,  
A raucous bass of a truck,  
Barely distinguishable and strained,  
Is heard to me among this grove.  
— Aren't you dozing, poor sergeant?  
— I dare not, such is my fate...  
Salty and light-colored moisture  
Drips from the granite forehead.  
His inflamed eyes are looking sternly.  
Grey and with a darkened face,  
He still remains on the road,  
Which never will have an end.  
As if on wings, he heads forward,  
A worker of our great war,  
Brother and comrade of the soldier  
Who sleeps by the Kremlin Wall.

## Valery Khatyushin

### Earthly fate

The souls of our fallen soldiers,  
Remaining in the twenty-fourth,  
With a heaven's higher escort  
Are flying to the halls of God.

The black power won't touch their souls.  
(God's hall is omnipotent and bright.)  
In those heavenly heights, they will catch up  
With those who flew up before them.

They will evoke in our nerves  
The expectation of revenge...  
Or, with the high sorrow of forgiveness,  
They will begin to follow us...

For us, who listen to their trumpeting flight,  
Who catch the light of their eyes,  
Our earthly fate is for the Russian land  
To go further, to the end.

The fallen will find in this land  
The highest degree of all awards:  
In it, like trees, will grow up  
Our immortal soldiers' hearts.

### Discovery of the Motherland

You will feel it with all your hot blood,  
When the Motherland is revealed to you,  
When Diveyevo, Optina and Sergiyev Posad  
Enter forever into that soul of yours.

The honor to protect them is trusted to you...  
The mercy of heaven is bottomless...  
Through our faith and the Russian speech,  
You grow into immortality, too.

Remember! On all your earthly path,  
You are preparing to meet yourself  
Beyond that irrevocable line,  
When you become a real Man.

Only be afraid to betray your faith  
On the road that your heart has not traveled yet,  
So that in this life you can understand,  
WHEN really begins the Motherland.

## Dmitry Darin

### Hand-to-hand fighting

The sky was glowing at sunset,  
As our platoon held the line.  
Got no chucks in your machine gun?  
Then take a knife, you stab and cut.

Oh, I believe in an icy fury,  
Just as a sniper believes in his sight.  
And when it comes to direct fighting,  
Not he, but I'll remain intact.

Here we were, with our eyes crossed,  
Three seconds left before we knife.  
The world around seemed to be frozen  
With all its bloody sharing out.

So we approached. With the same curse  
My steel was scratching upon his...  
The devil stretched his gap-toothed mouth,  
And the raven flew around the field.

The ancient lot's cast into the sky,  
A minute lasts more than a day.  
The last clang was just like the last sigh —  
And God then placed a bet on me.

He might have been from the NazBatt,  
Not courage, but strong hate drove him.  
And I remembered only the sacred:  
The warmth of my ancestral home.

And later, they unclenched my fingers  
From the knife's handle in the dugout...  
The sky was glowing at sunset,  
As our platoon held the line.

### A minute before the fight...

A minute before the fight,  
You look up to the sky.  
The one who rules fate,  
Will weigh all on scale.

And from all the mess,  
With prayer or else,  
He throws our souls  
To the cup of his scale.

There are no vain regrets,  
Forever or today,  
Whose soul is heavier,  
Then here he stays.

Heavier not by revenge,  
And not by carnal sin,  
But by the flying message  
About a perished friend.

And by a stuck splinter,  
Cutting memory into smoke,  
Through broken villages  
And grey-headed teens.

With your mother's plea  
Not to stay in the woods...  
A minute before the fight,  
Look up to the sky.

There, at the angels' base,  
A spare channel remains.  
God is online,  
You are his call sign!

## Anatoly Avrutin

(Republic of Belarus)

Interlaced and tangled — who can figure it out,  
The kind of mystery that the Russians are?  
From where do they get a universal breadth?  
A Russian is a Tatar, and he is a Bashkir.  
And a Highlander, who's left his wife and his mom,  
While fighting in a battle, will call himself Russian.  
Their common Motherland is Eternal Rus,  
And mothers admonish them: "Just don't be afraid!"  
Old fathers admonish the warriors saying:  
"There are no braver hearts in the world than  
the Russian ones!"

There are none braver, and none more trusting,  
And this is the secret of our glorious victories!"  
...Where are the Khazars now and all those tribes,  
That tormented harshly our Russian land?  
Where are the Polovtsians, the warlike rabble  
That always were standing with swords at our gates?  
But, holding his tempered damask steel sharp,  
Kolovrat always was ready to fight.

A symbol of old and new victories of ours,  
Peresvet was ready to grapple with the enemy.  
Although the princes feuded sometimes,  
Brother against brother — so marched the line,  
And our Russian towns sometimes were burned  
By Russian stray, sharp, fire-breathing arrows.  
Although some people believed that forever  
An alien horde, Golden Horde was set there...  
But among people was found again  
Dmitry Pozharsky, or Dmitry Donskoy.  
And all the False Dmitrys were driven away,  
And the cannons fired on the victorious night.  
And Stenka, defeated and treacherously caught,  
Would not have taken help from the enemies.  
With a head bowed on the shoulder before execution,  
Pugachev would not have taken their help.  
He mounted the scaffold after all his failures,  
And a gloomy Russian executioner then  
With a Russian sword, cut off his Russian head —  
Such things have happened in our Motherland.  
Realizing that the Russians cannot be conquered,  
The French rushed in to "serve" our people.  
Then, grinning, the Germans came to our land...  
They all falsely shouted in Russian: "Hurray!"  
And having received their Orthodox names,  
They ascended the tempting high Russian throne.  
What happened then — we all know... Again  
Russian blood splashed for rebellious Rus.  
And the bell rang where, lined up in a row,  
The Bashkirs and Buryats marched side by side  
with the Russian.

A Jewish shoemaker and a Jewish artist  
Stood up, having forgotten their grievances,  
Although they heard threats shouted in their backs  
From a Jewish pub keeper and a Jewish percenter...  
Several "Urals" lined up in the yard,  
And the spirit trembled in a mournful silence.  
Mother Earth received here her beloved boys,  
With the fluff of poplar covering the ground.  
At this very hour, the winds did not howl,  
The midday froze, as if it grew into the sky.  
And the Lord bent over the Russian soul,  
Sprinkling it again with the righteous dew.  
The shadow of the soul, having left the stuffiness,  
Languished around me like a disconsolate ghost.  
And there was I, without a single movement  
Looking on the helmet full of heavy void.  
Only yesterday it safely protected  
The life of my dear warrior in the fight.  
But a small sharp splinter pierced the metal,  
And they started bleeding down the face —  
The armor's power and the camouflage's harness,  
The attack's rage and the desire to live...  
The unwoven yarn of fluffy clouds  
Was slowly drawing through the heaven's hole,  
Distancing the battle. But it is still there,  
As immovable as a will, as holy as our Rus.  
The number "two hundred", hateful to my ears,  
Raises a fear in me to see it with my eyes.  
And I stand at a distance, where the poplar  
Stretches its shoots into the maturity of storms.  
Donetsk heat. The hospital. The necropolis.  
No poems, no grumble, no tears...  
Only a shapeless hole of grief in front of me,  
'Cause I stand there silent and can't help but see it —  
A helmet thrown by a stretcher-bearer  
Into a pile of black bags, junk and rags.  
And we don't need any monuments higher,  
And we don't need a memory more strong  
Than this pile among the rusty slush  
And the pierced armor lying on it.  
And when the colors will return to summer,  
Revealing a thread of life through all the grief,  
That drops of blood on the discarded helmet  
I won't be able to forget until my death...

'Cause we have a common Motherland —  
the Eternal Rus.  
And their mothers told them: "Just don't be afraid!"  
Old fathers admonished the warriors saying:  
"There are no braver hearts in the world than  
the Russian ones!"  
And how can one not listen to a heroic father?  
This is how we live... This way, without an end!

## Svetlana Razmyslovich

### Helmet

Several "Urals" lined up in the yard,  
And the spirit trembled in a mournful silence.  
Mother Earth received here her beloved boys,  
With the fluff of poplar covering the ground.

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The midday froze, as if it grew into the sky.  
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Languished around me like a disconsolate ghost.  
And there was I, without a single movement  
Looking on the helmet full of heavy void.

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The life of my dear warrior in the fight.  
But a small sharp splinter pierced the metal,  
And they started bleeding down the face —

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That drops of blood on the discarded helmet  
I won't be able to forget until my death...





The young man's excessive passion for sports did not lead to anything good, and soon he found himself at the front.

Drawing by Vladimir Mochalov

# Selected moments of operational correspondence

The check-up showed that at this time of day, as expected, the subject was indulging in a favorite pastime of the locals — sitting in a cafe and watching passers-by.

According to the assurances of the foreigner, he is not a currency speculator, but only a numismatist who collects American dollars.

At the initiative of "S", they returned to discussing issues related to agriculture: the agent once again began to ask for money for a cow.

Taking into account the identified interests of the foreigner, we plan to contact the latter through cats.

"K"'s wife still does not suspect his contacts with us, believing that in the evenings her husband, as usually, stays late with his mistress.

According to "T", there can be no surveillance over him in principle, since no one is interested in him, with the possible exception of pickpockets, beggars and women with low social responsibility.

According to the source, he came to the meeting with us only to warn us that he would not be able to come to it.

## In the next issue:

**State Corporation "Rostec" CEO Sergey Chemezov:**

"The Russian industry has successfully overcome sanctions and is continuing its sustainable development"

**Intelligence service in the Great Patriotic War**  
Part 2: partisans and saboteurs

**The end of Operation Sunrise**

How the foreign intelligence revealed separate games of the allies

**People's artist of Russia Vladimir Mashkov:**

"In the present conditions theatre cannot stay away from politics"





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