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**"Tatyana Savicheva & her diary in the besieged Leningrad
during the 2d World War"**

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The besieged Leningrad is one of the most tragic and, at the same time, one of the most heroic pages of Russian military history. It's impossible to remember without tears these events of the Great Patriotic War, which became triumphant, heroic and tragic page of the history of our people.



The blockade of Leningrad lasted 900 days of death, famine, cold, despair and courage of common inhabitants of this city.

A situation in Leningrad in period of the blockade was extremely hard. Regular bombardments killed people, destroyed buildings, architectural monuments, food ware houses. They prevented to deliver the food stuffs to the city by the only road of life across the lake Ladoga.



Thousands of people died because of hunger and cold. However in spite of all these pains and hardship, Leningrad inhabitants manifested their legend courage and they don't give away the city to enemy.



Today I want to tell you about an ordinary girl, who was only 12 years old, about a girl, who became famous all over the world, about Tanya Savicheva.



The world knew her because of her diary that she kept and in which, with her non-formed child handwriting, she marked the terrible dates of death of her family.

It was a loving, friendly family.



A father was a baker, a mother was a seamstress. There were five children in the family, Tanya was the youngest one and was loved by everyone. Big grey eyes under a light fair fringe, sailor-blouse, clear, merry voice.

Her father died early, that's why her mother had to work very hard in order to bring up her children. She liked embroider and Tanya had learned to embroider too since her childhood. Her favourite embroidery were flowers, many-many flowers...

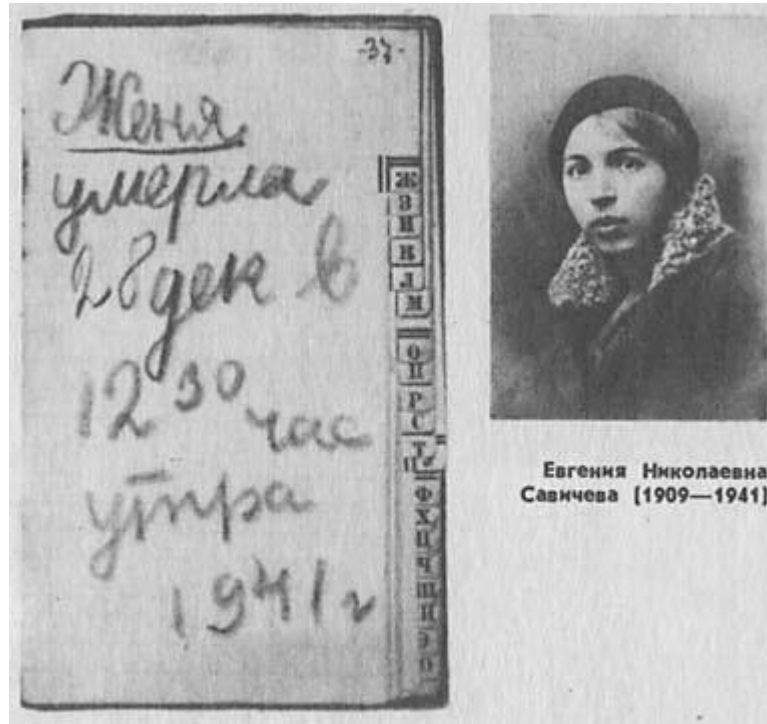
Savichevs were going to spend summer of 1941 in a country, but the only child, who went there, was her brother Misha. But in the morning 22th of June changed their plans. Friendly and close Savichevs family decided to stay in Leningrad, keep out together and help the front. The mother sewed clothing for soldiers. Tanya's brother Leka worked in a factory with sister Jenya. Sister Nina was engaged in defensive works. Two Tanya's uncles, Vasilij and Aleksey, served in PVO (anti-aircraft defence). Tanya with some other children helped adults to put out duds and to dig trenches. But the ring of blockade was shrinking very fast.



Once Tanya's older sister Nina didn't return home from her work. Relatives thought that she had perished and mother gave to Tanya Nina's notebook as remembrance of her older sister. This notebook just became her awful dairy...



The first note in this dairy appeared on 28th of December 1941. Jenya died. She worked whole day in a factory, but after her job she donated blood for injured soldiers. Jenya was too exhausted and died.

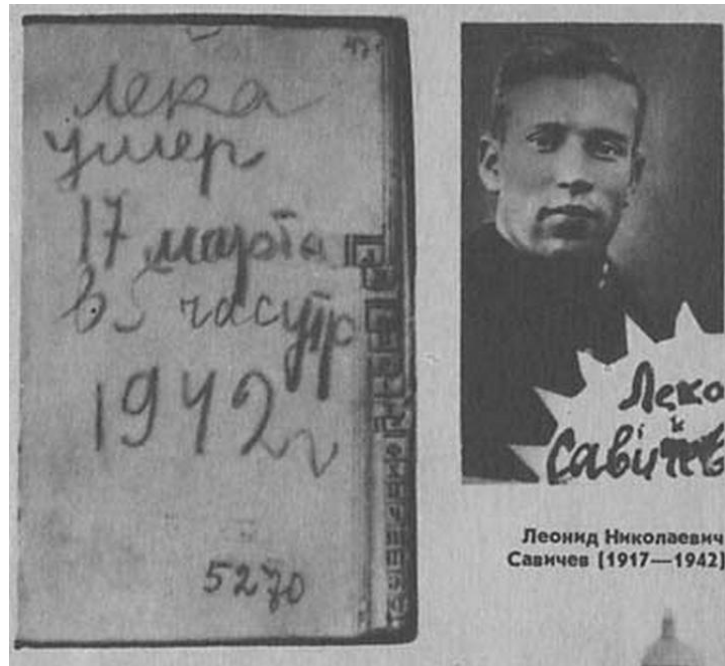


On 25th of January 1942 a new note appeared in the dairy. Tanya's grandmother Evdokia died. She needed immediate hospitalization because of dystrophy. But a courageous woman understood, that city hospitals were crowded with wounded soldiers, that's why she refused from hospitalization.



Then Nina and Misha left family for a long time. But Tanya didn't write about their disappearance on her dairy.

The 17th of March 1942 Leka died. He died because of dystrophy too. «Leka worked very hard; he was never late to his shift, though he was very exhausted. But once he didn't come to the factory. And two days later they reported, that Leka was no more...»



One more note appeared on the 13th of April; uncle Vasya died.



Then one by one new notes appeared one by one: announcing the death of uncle Alex on the 10th of May and one of Tanya's mother, in the morning on 13th of May. But writing this the girl missed the word «died».



Soon a last notice, made by child's hand, appeared in the dairy. «All members of Savichevs family died. Only Tanya is still alive».



But one couldn't save Tanya. They found her in her flat lying unconscious. One took her out from besieged Leningrad, but she didn't recover because of hunger, disease and pains. The first of July 1944 Tanya was not more.

In her small book this girl told people about the war, which cause so much pain and grief to her family. She told this in a way so sincere and touching, that even today people of different ages and nationalities stop in front of these lines, written by a little child, and peer this ordinary but so terrible words.



Tanya's notes were presented in court as a document convincing fascism.

The diary of Tanya Savicheva is exhibited in museum of history of St. Petersburg and you can see its copy in the window of Piskarevskoe Memorial Cemetery.



Used resources

1. <http://www.world-war.ru/dnevnik-tani-savichevoj/>
2. Web-site «Военная литература»: militera.lib.ru
3. Illustrations: http://militera.lib.ru/bio/mikson_il_savicheva/ill.html
4. Web-site <http://www.aif.ru/society/history/1431137>
5. Ilya Mixon «Life» - Documentary story of Tanya Savicheva and the people of Leningrad in the besieged city