

## THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR (1941-1945)

On June 22, 1941 **Nazi Germany** attacked the Soviet Union without **declaring** war. So **the Great Patriotic War broke out**.

During the month that **followed** the Soviet **forces** lost whole armies and **vast territories**. The German army had better weapons at that time.

The Germans were **advancing** quickly. The **advance** was in three **directions**: in the direction of Leningrad, towards Moscow and towards Kiev.

In September 1941 Germany began the **blockade** of Leningrad. They formed a deep ring around the city. They were **bombing** and **shelling** the city day and night. The city was **cut off** from **the rest** of the country. There was no water, gas, electricity, transport, food in the city.

But though thousands died of hunger Leningrad didn't **give in**. People worked for 15 – 16 hours a day. Heavy tanks went straight from the Kirov plant to **the front lines**. The only link that Leningrad had with the rest of the country was “the Road of Life” across the ice of Lake Ladoga. The blockade lasted for 900 days.

In September 1941 the German **Command launched** an **offensive** against Moscow. Thousands of Soviet people took part in its defence. On November 7, 1941 there was a traditional military parade in Red Square. The **troops** went to the front line just from Red Square. The **fascists failed to capture** Moscow. It was the first most important **defeat** of fascists in the Great Patriotic War.

To separate the Soviet troops in **the Caucasus Hitler concentrated** a great army with a lot of tanks and **aviation** near Stalingrad. Most of the buildings in the city were ruined or burnt down because of heavy bombing and street fighting. General G. K. Zhukov organized a **counteroffensive** and **took prisoner** Paulus and his army. This was the turning point in the war.

But not only soldiers fought at the front, more than a million people fought enemy in the **rear**. Partisans killed Nazi soldiers and officers, **blew up** railroads, factories, bridges.

During the war a lot of industrial factories and millions of people were **evacuated** to the East of the country, where they produced **war materials**, working day and night.

During the Great Patriotic War many Soviet people **displayed outstanding heroism** and **courage**: people of our country will never forget the names of Alexander Matrosov, Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya, twenty-eight men of a **division** commanded by General Panfilov, the young people from Krasnodon, the **defenders** of the Brest Fortress and others.

The Soviet Army **liberated** our land from **invaders**, and then the territory of ten European countries.

Our country lost more than 20 million of its people and saved the world from **fascism**.

Now the people of Russia and their armed forces celebrate May 9 - the day of Victory over fascist Germany.

The historic victory over Nazi Germany was won by **the joint efforts** of Russia, Great Britain and the USA. Our country had the main role in defeating fascist Germany.

Victory Day is a great event for millions of people of our country. On May 9, 2020 we'll celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of great victory in Great Patriotic War and World War II. A parade of war veterans will take place in every village, town and city of our Motherland. A great parade of war veterans will be held in Moscow in Red Square where the first parade of winners took place 75 years ago. People will lay flowers in Moscow's Park Pobedi, at **the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier** in Alexandrovsky Square, in Mamaev Hill in Volgograd and Peskaryovskoye **Cemetery** in St. Petersburg. In the evening there will be a holiday **salute** and a **minute of silence** to remember all those who didn't come back from the war. Songs of the Great Patriotic War will be sung in the TV holiday concert.