ПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВО САНКТ – ПЕТЕРБУРГА КОМИТЕТ ПО ОБРАЗОВАНИЮ

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ПРОЕКТНО- ИССЛЕДОВАТЕЛЬСКАЯ ДЕЯТЕЛЬНОСТЬ

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**«Animals during the Great Patriotic War»**

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# Introduction

Horses, dogs, pigeons, dolphins, moose, like humans, performed feats. And died, just like people. As the Heroes of the Great Patriotic War, fighting animals have saved thousands of human lives and helped to bring the long-awaited Victory day.

## Horses

*Horses tried hard as were able,*

*Carried* ***heroes*** *of the attacks -*

*To heroes in songs thundered,*

*Just do not sing about horses ...*

***M. Shcherbakov, "A man plays his fate"***

Still, despite the fact that World War II was called the war motors, horses played a significant role in it. And in the Soviet Army and the Wehrmacht used horses as transportation and force, especially in the artillery. Namely rides in six horses through the war without any complaints and the vagaries of pulling guns, changing the battery firing positions. So stand before the eyes of newsreel frames front: Red Army from all forces pushed out stuck cart with ammunition pulled by horses. The reason for this widespread use of horses is very simple - on impassability (especially in spring and autumn), where stuck any cars could pass only these hardy animals. Especially the artillery loved horses-draft horses – they without any problems hauled even huge howitzers! And here is particularly distinguished Vladimir Heavy Draft - the pride of the domestic horse. Horses were indispensable for rapid raids on the enemy's rear, to raids and sabotage. And all because, although the horse runs at an average speed not exceeding 20 km per hour and can overcome no more than 100 km per day, but it can go where no technique will not pass - and do it quickly. It should be noted that the enemy at the beginning of the war horses was smaller, although cavalry units were in the Wehrmacht. However, once from Western Europe to Russia's roads, the Germans quickly realized the advantages of the "four-legged" thrust, and the number of horses in the German army greatly increased, mainly due to the occupied territories. Save a lot of evidence that the German cavalry and driving very warmly and respectfully spoke about domestic breeds of horses. So that our horses can be proud of - and their opponent respected (and it does not happen often).

How many horses "were serving" in the Soviet Army during the war? Hard to say. According to official figures regular number of horses in the army was 1.9 million head. However, many of them "is not listed." Someone just did not have time to write on the allowance, because horse’s life in the war was not particularly long. For instance, she could not hide in the trenches or in the dugout take refuge from bullets and shell fragments. It is believed that during the Great Patriotic War on the battlefield was lost over a million horses. However, the losses among of the horse would have been much more if not well-organized veterinary service, which operated on the front. The vast majority of the wounded and sick horses after treatment returned to duty. Despite the fact that the Second World War called motors, horses played a significant role in the battles. According to official data the number of horses in the Soviet Army was 1.9 million head. During the war horses were used as a transport force, especially in the artillery. Team of six horses pulling gun emplacements changing batteries. Carts with food and field kitchens were delivered to the position it was a horse. Soldiers assigned connected, and often preferred horse motorcycle. Despite the fact that the horse could not overcome more than 100km per day, but she could go where no technology will not pass, and where to do it quietly. So often the horses used for rapid raids on the enemy's rear, to raids and sabotage. Often, the wounded were horses owe their lives: most hospitals were "horse-drawn". In turn, the people of his friends also did not forget. Wounded horses on the battlefield is not thrown, and brought to veterinary hospitals. Seriously wounded horses was taken to hospital by car, there they were doing complex operations and nursed until full recovery. Accurate data on how many horses were killed during the war not. But it is believed that during the Great Patriotic War of the Soviet Army lost more than a million faithful horses. Bulls were the backbone of successful actions cavalry. But in the Great Patriotic War Horse was used not only in the cavalry. Moreover, the horse cavalry formations constitute a minority of horse of the Red Army, whose staff number was about 1.9 million heads. After the defeat of Nazi Germany and its allies, the Soviet Union in August 1945 joined the war against imperialist Japan. In Manchuria release a very important role played by the mechanized cavalry group of Soviet-Mongolian troops under the command of General IA Pliev. It included along with motorized infantry, tank and artillery formations and units of the Soviet one and four Mongolian cavalry divisions. The march was held in harsh environmental conditions of the Gobi desert with sweltering heat, long sand storms, a constant shortage of water, which both people and horses prepared for very cut-down standards. But, despite all this, the cavalry continued stubbornly to move forward on the old caravan route - narrow paths, embossed feet of camels in the Gobi sand. We walked day and night, overcoming a day on average in the 70 km, and sometimes more than 100 km. During the six days were passed more than 400 km. After a short rest, the group moved on. At this stage, it had to act in the taiga spurs of the Greater Khingan, overcoming rough mountain rivers, the water in which rose strongly after the recent rains. Cavalrymen attacked Japanese forces where they did not expect the impact. In this way they have made a significant contribution to the defeat of the Japanese Kwantung Army, and thus to the victorious end of the war in the Far East. Animal traction was the main parts of a rifle. Each infantry regiment statewide supposed to have about 350 horses. They were transporting artillery pieces and mortars, property divisions communication, demining, chemical and others. Horse carts were the main transport and regimental rear. They provided food, ammunition and other equipment. One should not forget about the outdoor kitchen on the horse-drawn that everywhere accompanied the troops to feed the soldiers hot food. Many staff and horses were in various other parts of the rear and institutions. Their number has increased significantly during the snow drifts, slush spring and autumn, when denied Motorcycles. Many commanders tried to secure their part of the extra horse transport due trophy or orphan horses, which can be found in the combat zone. In some parts of the rifle total number of horses sometimes reached six, almost twice the number of staff.

## Dogs

Not many of us know about these four-legged heroes who saved hundreds of thousands of lives. Perhaps some WWII veterans are alive only because of their excellent work and unquestioning execution of his duty - to help a person in any situation, even if it will cost them their lives.

Our dogs were carrying most of the different services, were:

- Sled dogs, driving on small carts ammunition and takes them as wounded soldiers. During the war, they were removed from the line of fire of about 700 thousand wounded and delivered about 3,500 tons of ammunition. Dogs - tank destroyers. Not the most pleasant dog profession, which appeared during the war. These dogs are trained to a single task in their lives - the undermining of enemy tanks. To do this, they were trained not to be afraid to creep under moving tanks. Before setting them wore special bags with mines. And as soon as the dog is under armor, mine exploded. In this way, during the war, was destroyed about 300 enemy tanks. The reason for ending the use of dogs in this way is the fact that these dogs began to throw under the tracks not only German, but Soviet tanks. First of all, they have served as a watchdog, and in outposts. Often the dogs were used in ambushes and secrets. There were also special dogs trained to search for enemy snipers hiding. During the war, has trained more than 6,000 mine detection dogs, which account for more than 4 million found min. On the battlefield, wounded dog unerringly sought out, distinguishing them from those killed, sent to him and helped nurses to carry. Sometimes successful actions connected dogs ensures the success of the entire military operation. The real horror of the Nazis has imposed on the dog-tank destroyers. Hung with explosives dog, habituated to not be afraid clang of armored vehicles was a terrible weapon: the rapid and inevitable. In the spring of 1942 in the Battle of Moscow alone the appearance of dogs on the battlefield drew several dozen enemy tanks in flight. At first it was a living weapon. Mine explosion killed the dog. This gave the dog a chance to escape. Sabotage and undermine the dog echelons of the enemy. They dropped mine on the track in front of the locomotive and ran under the mound to his guide.

Remembrance of Malyutin (veteran of The Grate Patriotic War). Children wrote to newspaper: “Some man killed the dog in the street”. For the veteran it was terrible and incredible. He remembers how during WW II dogs helped our army to beat Nazi. Dogs ran to the Nazi tanks carrying a bomb tied to it back. Dogs were friends and dogs were heroes!

**Pigeons**

Army used carrier pigeons. During the war pigeons delivered more than 15,000 messages so called “pigeongrammes”.

Pigeons are such a threat to the enemy; the Nazis specifically gave orders snipers to shoot pigeons and even coached the Hawks, who played the role of fighters. Most of the seized birds simply destroyed most thoroughbred sent to Germany. Potential for harboring "feathered partisan" their boss was only one punishment - death.

**"Darling"**

On one of the submarines on board lived pigeon named "Darling." During one of his military campaigns boat torpedoed the transport and fascist, going from persecution, fell into a minefield, received severe injuries - has failed radio and she could not return to their own base. Airspeed dove from 60 to 100 km. per hour. And the pigeon is well-versed and night. Marine received assistance and was towed to their home base another Soviet submarine.

**Dove gray with number "48"**

The detachment of scouts, being in deep behind enemy lines, was surrounded and lost contact with his part. The only radio was broken, and break through the encirclement was impossible. Luckily fighters were tested in the affairs of a single rock pigeon trained at number 48. Port depeshnik with a report was attached to the foot air communicator.

During the flight, the pigeon was attacked coached for these purposes fascist hawk and was wounded but managed to escape a dove. At the station he dove flew at dusk and literally fell under the feet of duty as an ordinary soldier. After transfer to the staff reports, the pigeon was operated by a veterinarian.

Experience of using pigeons in World War II proved conclusively that in many cases the winged messengers successfully replaced most advanced technical means of communication, and in some cases were the only means of conveying information to the front edge. In a situation where as a result of enemy fire impact cable, wire and radio communication fails, the doves worked perfectly.

Two weeks before the assault operation to the front arrived pigeon station, on the staff of the 1-st, 2-nd, 3-rd and fourth fronts. The task before the fancier was one - to provide a link operative - intelligence groups secretly infiltrated into the enemy.

Radar Service enemy at that time already has powerful radar and mobile units, of course, the airing of our intelligence by means of radio stations has been completely eliminated. These same reconnaissances were the main source of information for the preparation of such a large-scale military operation as an assault "Eastern Wall" and fixing it. Each had its own reconnaissance task, but on the whole, the problem is reduced to one thing: to scout the entire defense system of the enemy, to identify weaknesses in the defense system, install the arm, and the size of the weapons system. In the development of the operation to release the Ukrainian capital of Kiev was considered that the closest to the city was Bukrinsky bridgehead. Since it was expected to strike the forces of the Voronezh Front (commanded by Colonel - General Vatutin). However, the carrier pigeon brought the message that the Germans became aware of this, and they urgently regrouped his forces and occupied clearly advantageous position, of course, is not promising success in offensive operations of our troops in this area. Sudden Impact was lost, and offensive Bukrin bridgehead could hardly be a success, moreover, intelligence reported that the terrain in this area is extremely inconvenient for the actions of tanks - ovrazhistaya very strongly hilly, little roads. At the same time, another group of scouts reported that it is convenient for our offensive there Lyutezhsky springboard, this is where the German command troops relocated to Bukrinsky bridgehead. With these data, the Soviet command urgently relocated 3rd Guards Tank Army on Lyutezhsky springboard from which the Germans were not expecting our attack. Imagine what a tank army: it is a huge number of people, tanks, auxiliary equipment, and providing units. And all this had to be in the shortest possible time secretly relocated to 200 km along the front. September 23, 1943 mechanized units of the 3rd Guards Tank Army Major General Chibisova crossed the Dnieper and seized large bridgehead, which moved first shelf, then the division, and then the whole army of Soviet troops.

## Mooes

From the first days of the war began to form partisan movement. Specially trained NKVD remained in the occupied territories to organize subversive groups. One of the priorities with which they had to decide was the task legendary transporting goods and troops over long distances. The use of horses often led to deciphering the deployment location of the base camp: horseshoes horse prints were clearly visible in the forest. Then the idea to use for this purpose moose. Traces of the elk do not arouse suspicion. Elk can eat thin branches of trees and moose milk has healing properties. In the Swedish army troops were elk and moose domestication first attempts were made in the Soviet Union as early as 1930. To prepare the moose was a special group. Elks rounds and accustomed to fire. Large spread use for military purposes moose not poluchili- this was due mainly to the apparent difficulties in the organization of training fighters. Nevertheless, about twenty elk were sent to the intelligence of the army. There are cases of successful raids of our scouts on elk in the enemy's rear.

## Dolphins

Before the war in the Crimea have established a base for training dolphins military affairs. But the war started and the project carried out only after the war.

# Conclusion

It has been almost 60 years; the world has witnessed the feat of the Soviet people. Then our ancestors once again proved the truth of the words of Alexander Nevsky, "Who is the sword will come to us, perish by the sword." We - their descendants. Our fallen will be with us always - that would not say those who learned of the Great Patriotic did not go for the future.

In those years, a number of soldiers at the front were fighting and those whom we call our smaller brothers, animals and birds. They did not give orders, they did not receive titles. They performed feats without knowing it. They were just doing what they have been taught the people - and died as humans. But, dying, they saved thousands of lives.

I choose this topic, because we must not forget the actions of animals in the Great Patriotic War. They saved lives of 100000 people. many animals, including horses, dogs and pigeon were killed during the WW II. Let’s **Save history together!**

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