

# RUSSIAN EMBASSY WEEKLY

# 391



# PRESIDENT ПРЕЗИДЕНТ

## Greetings to Russian Muslims

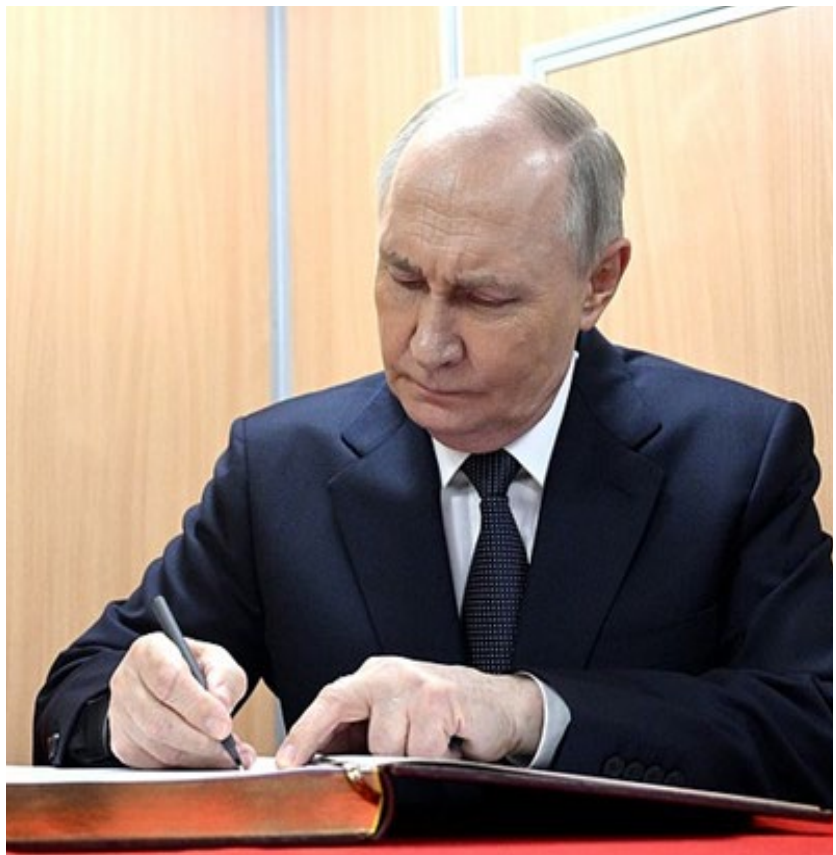
### Поздравление мусульманам России с праздником Ураза-байрам

“Please accept my heartfelt greetings on Eid al-Fitr.

This holiday, which marks the ending of the holy month of Ramadan, is one of the oldest and most cherished holidays for Muslims around the world. It represents striving for personal growth, benevolence and compassion.

It is good to see that Russian Muslims highly value the rich spiritual and historical legacy of their ancestors, respecting customs, covenants and traditions of their grandfathers and great-grandfathers, and cultivating those in the younger generation. This is why Eid al-Fitr is so widely celebrated around Russia by religious communities and families alike.

The enormous constructive contribution of Muslim organisations to the development of Russia’s public and cultural life, to highly relevant



charity, educational and patriotic projects and initiatives, deserves most sincere respect. Of course, I want to specifically praise the effective assistance you offer to participants and veterans of the special military operation, their families and loved ones.

I wish you good health and success in your endeavours.”

## Meeting with permanent members of the Security Council

### Совещание с постоянными членами Совета Безопасности



**Vladimir Putin:** Today, we will discuss additional measures to counter the terrorist threat. This is a highly important issue that requires no additional comments. I now give the floor to Director of the Federal Security Service Alexander Bortnikov.

Before we begin our discussion, I would like to ask Mr Belousov about the implementation of agreements regarding the cessation of strikes by Russia and Ukraine on their respective energy infrastructure systems.



## Meeting with Foreign Minister of China Wang Yi

### Встреча с Министром иностранных дел Китая Ван И



are developing, including with the direct support of our respective foreign ministries. I am aware that you have an extensive and busy programme for your visit. First of all, it is connected with preparations for the visit of the President of the

**Vladimir Putin:** allow me to cordially welcome you to Moscow. I am very pleased to see you again.

Before we begin our conversation, I would like to ask you to convey my friendly greetings to the President of the People's Republic of China, our good friend Mr Xi Jinping.

We are waiting for him in Russia on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War, World War II. We will mark this anniversary – victory over Nazi Germany and victory over militaristic Japan – together.

We would like to express satisfaction with the way our relations

People's Republic of China to Russia. We will prepare a good and fulfilling programme.

I hope it will involve not only participation in solemn events, but will also be a separate visit. The President of the People's Republic of China will be our main guest, and we will have an opportunity to discuss the current state of bilateral relations and our interaction on international venues, primarily the UN – the UN Security Council – as well as the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, BRICS and a number of other platforms where we work together with great success.

# On April 2, the peoples of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus celebrate their Day of Unity

## 2 апреля отмечается День единения народов Российской Федерации и Республики Беларусь



Union State for almost 25 years. Along this path, we have managed to achieve a great deal. Thanks to the successful implementation of 28 sectoral Union programmes, Russian and Belarusian legislation was harmonised, the legal and organisational

In 1996, they signed a treaty on the formation of the Community of Russia and Belarus, which served as the first step towards the creation of the Union State of Russia and Belarus.

The Treaty on the Union of Russia and Belarus came into force a year later, and on December 8, 1999, the Treaty on the Creation of the Union State was signed.

Today, the Union State implements programmes in industry, energy and IT, to name a few. Trade between Russia and Belarus grows at record high rates every year, given the considerable degree of mutual complementarity of their economies.

**Vladimir Putin:** We have been working together to build the

foundations for a common economic space formed, and conditions created for the implementation of a unified macroeconomic and monetary policy, and for joint work to minimise damage from illegal Western restrictions.

The Unity Day of the Peoples of Russia and Belarus confirms the cohesion of the two fraternal peoples and their striving to continue strengthening their interaction based on the centuries-old traditions of friendship and close cultural and spiritual ties.

We congratulate our Belarusian friends on a holiday that is a symbol of unbreakable ties of brotherly friendship between our countries and peoples!

## Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's interview for the No Statute of Limitations: The Front without a Frontline film project

### Интервью Министра иностранных дел Российской Федерации С.В.Лаврова для проекта «Без срока давности. Фронт без линии фронта»



**Question:** Mr Lavrov, could you please explain why there are attempts today to downplay or even completely deny the role of the Red Army and the Soviet people in the victory over Nazism?

**Sergey Lavrov:** It is a traditional position of the West to seek to weaken its competitors. Europeans dominated for about 500 years, primarily because they sought to conquer as much land as possible and enslave as many people as possible. Essentially, all of humanity's tragedies that occurred before 1939, including World War II, were triggered by

Europeans. From colonialism, slavery, and the Turkish wars, to the First and Second World Wars, these were all attempts by various powers in Europe to suppress their competitors.

In fact, there is nothing new about competition. People and states have always competed with each other. But the methods used by Europe to suppress its competitors were horrendous. These instincts are deeply ingrained in today's European society, particularly in the elites currently in power in most EU and NATO countries. Although there is growing opposition against such actions, these policies still persist.

The instincts of the ruling class in Europe are clearly evident in what is happening in Ukraine – the war that the West has unleashed against the Russian Federation, using the Kiev regime as its proxy and paving the way for its juggernaut with the bodies

of Ukrainians. Just like Napoleon mobilised almost all of Europe during the Patriotic War of 1812, and Hitler, after conquering most of Europe, put the French, Spaniards, and a large part of the continent's countries under arms, this is also happening now. The French conducted punitive operations, and the Spanish participated in the blockade of Leningrad. This is a well-known fact.

Therefore, we can see even today that almost all of Western Europe has been mobilised to try to prolong the existence of the Nazi Zelensky regime. Just like during Hitler's era, this is being done under Nazi flags, with SS Totenkopf chevrons, etc, and so on.

The Baltic States, Poland and a number of other EU countries have long displayed the trend of rewriting history, equating criminals – those labelled as such by the Nuremberg Tribunal – with the liberators of Europe. This trend must be fought against decisively. Among the examples is the closure of the Russian exhibition at the former Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. This has been happening for several years now. We are not allowed to update our display or even speak there. We are simply not invited. It is astonishing that this year, the ceremony marking the anniversary of the liberation

of this concentration camp, was attended by those who turned it into a death camp, while those who liberated it were nowhere to be seen.

What additional efforts is Russia making to preserve historical memory and counter the information war being waged against us? Are the current legal proceedings recognising the actions of Nazi invaders in the occupied territories as genocide part of the effort to restore historical justice?

Sergey Lavrov: Absolutely. This is one of our key priorities. Such legal proceedings are taking place in the Russian Federation and in its constituent entities, particularly in the regions that suffered the most severe human and material losses during the war.

I am convinced that formal recognition of these crimes as genocide against the peoples of the USSR will not happen quickly because the resistance is immense. Acknowledging this reality would call into question the entire ideological foundation of most modern Western elites in Europe. However, this work will inevitably lead to recognition at the international level in the future.



## Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's opening remarks during talks with Foreign Minister of China Wang Yi

### Вступительное слово Министра иностранных дел России С.В.Лаврова в ходе переговоров с Министром иностранных дел Китайской Народной Республики Ван И



**Sergey Lavrov:** we are pleased to welcome Mr Wang Yi to Moscow on an official visit, the objective of which is to prepare for the upcoming Russia-China summit in May.

Meetings between President Vladimir Putin and President Xi Jinping consistently provide a powerful impetus for the further advancement of our relations, which, under the

leadership of our two heads of state, have reached an unprecedented level and continue to develop dynamically across all dimensions.

This year holds particular significance. The Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, and the entire international community mark the 80th anniversary of Victory in the Second World War in Europe and the



East, as well as the 80th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, in which our two nations play a leading role in upholding the fundamental principles of its Charter.

Today, the task of constructing a reliable barrier against the resurgence of fascist, Nazi, and militarist ideologies – as well as all forces seeking to revive these unacceptable phenomena – remains critically urgent.

Russia and China are united not only by a historical brotherhood in arms and shared extensive borders but also by centuries-old traditions of good-neighbourliness and a broad alignment of national interests.

We noted with interest your recent remarks, Mr Wang Yi, during a media briefing in Beijing, where you emphasised that the comprehensive partnership and strategic interaction between our nations constitute a constant, not a variable. This is precisely the guidance provided by our leaders, President Vladimir Putin and President Xi Jinping.

Recently, during their engagement via videoconference – preceded by a telephone conversation – they reaffirmed their mutual commitment to the consistent strengthening of the Russia-China partnership. We will spare no effort to ensure the effective

implementation of these agreements.

We underscore the responsibility of Moscow and Beijing to maintain close coordination on the international stage. In this era of complex global political developments, the countries of the Global Majority regard our collaboration as the most significant stabilising factor.

I am confident that today we will reach consensus on advancing our bilateral relations in the context of preparations for high-level meetings, as well as on further coordination within the United Nations, its Security Council, the SCO, BRICS, the G20, ASEAN frameworks, and other multilateral platforms with a view to establishing a more just and democratic multipolar world order.

# Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's answer to a media question

## ОТВЕТ С.В.Лаврова на вопрос СМИ



**Question:** I have a question about strikes on energy infrastructure. We keep hearing mixed messages coming from Kiev. One day they are ready to sit down and talk, and next thing you know they keep attacking our facilities. Could you provide an update on where things stand with regard to the moratorium? Is it being observed, if so, to what extent, and is it still in force for us and the other party?

**Sergey Lavrov:** At the very beginning of today's meeting of the Security Council of the Russian Federation and before taking up the main issue of combatting terrorist threats, President Vladimir Putin asked Defence Minister Andrey Belousov and me to provide an update on the status of our relations with the United States on the Ukrainian

dossier.

Andrey Belousov spoke precisely about the moratorium that was agreed upon at the suggestion of President Trump on March 18 during the telephone call between the President of Russia and the President of the United States.

The moratorium is not being observed. All this time, the energy facilities of the Russian Federation have been coming under attacks with occasional short breaks of one to two days between them.

Defence Minister Belousov listed the facilities targeted by Ukrainian drones over the period under review, including last night.

My update went along the same lines. The Russian army is observing the moratorium that President Putin ordered to strictly comply with on March 18 during a telephone conversation with President Trump.

Remember, President Putin said seven drones were on their way to attack targets in Ukraine as they were having this telephone conversation. The drones were destroyed by our air defence forces and a jet fighter on duty that was up in the air at the time.

Since then, we have been 100 percent compliant with that agreement with President Trump.

We passed the list of violations cited by Defence Minister Andrey Belousov at the Security Council meeting to US National Security Adviser Michael Waltz. I forwarded this list to Secretary of State Marco Rubio and our representatives at the UN and the OSCE for them to use these concrete facts in their work and let everyone know the real worth of the words uttered by the current Ukrainian authorities, if “this” can even be called authorities.

In addition to this topic, President Putin asked me to provide an update on other areas of work with the Americans, including matters that were discussed on March 24 in Riyadh, when experts from Russia and the United States met to discuss the revivification, resumption, and resuscitation of the grain Black Sea Initiative. During the talks in Riyadh, we highly appreciated - President Putin supported this assessment - the United States’ willingness to help eliminate obstacles created by illegal unilateral sanctions imposed on Russian grain and fertiliser

exports. They created tensions on global markets and difficulties for the developing countries, which faced limited access to food and fertiliser.

We supported the US willingness to act in that regard which was laid out on paper after the March 24 meeting, and added specific proposals on how this could be done in practice.

The third topic of our interaction with the Americans is about eliminating “irritants” that seriously impede the work of our Embassy in Washington D.C. and the US Embassy in Moscow. Clearly, we did not initiate these obstacles. The Obama Administration did quite a lot in that regard. We only responded under the diplomatic law of reciprocity, which no one has torn up yet.

There was a meeting in Istanbul. Preparations are underway to hold a second one. There are contacts by phone and videoconference calls. I’d rather not make any predictions, but we can see signs of progress and our US partners’ willingness to lift these obstacles to normal work of diplomats in our respective capitals that are absolutely unacceptable from the point of view of diplomatic practice.



# Russia's Foreign Minister S.Lavrov's opening remarks at talks with Deputy Prime Minister – Foreign Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Bui Thanh Son

## Вступительное слово Министра иностранных дел России С.В.Лаврова в ходе переговоров с Вице-премьером Правительства, Министром иностранных дел Социалистической Республики Вьетнам Буй Тхань Шоном



**Sergey Lavrov:** We are delighted to welcome you to Moscow.

It is a special year for us. This year, we will mark 75 years of our diplomatic relations, the 80th Anniversary of Victory in the Second World War and of Vietnam's independence declared on September 2, 1945, and, of course, the 50th Anniversary of the liberation of the southern regions of your country on April 30, 1975.

All these dates are connected, in one way or another, with the development of our friendly and truly fraternal relations, and the practical expression of our people's solidarity in the fight for their independence and interests.

We can see today that the experience we accumulated at different stages in

our shared history, including at the time of trial, provided the basis for an intensive and substantive political dialogue at all levels and promoted our trade and economic ties, defence and security cooperation, cultural exchanges that are in great demand in our societies, and overall, our close interaction on the international stage.

We are working with our Vietnamese friends to implement the agreements reached in June 2024 during the state visit of President Vladimir Putin to Vietnam.

Comrade To Lam, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) and the 13th President of Vietnam, has been invited to Victory Day celebrations in Moscow. We will be delighted to see the Vietnamese leader at the celebrations.

There are intensive exchanges between our parliaments, scientists, experts and youth organisations.

We will discuss all these aspects of our relations today, and I hope that after that we will map out additional measures to promote our interaction in all spheres.

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## Moscow hosted the first Russia-Alliance of Sahel States (AES) Ministerial meeting

### О министерской встрече Россия – Конфедерация государств Сахеля



On April 3, Moscow hosted the first Russia-Alliance of Sahel States (AES) Ministerial meeting with the participation of Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation S.Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Mali Abdoulaye Diop (the President of Mali currently holds the ASS presidency), Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Cooperation and Burkinabe Abroad of the Republic of Burkina Faso K.J.-M. Traore, and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, and African Integration of the Republic of Niger B.Yaou Sangaré.

The Ministers engaged in a detailed discussion on issues related to strengthening friendly

relations between Russia and the AES with a focus on intensifying political dialogue and enhancing sector-specific cooperation.

They stated that the Parties had similar views on the majority of topics under discussion. Sergey Lavrov confirmed that Russia was ready to help the AES evolve an independent political course and shape a new regional security architecture based on self-reliance.

The Ministers agreed on further enhancing coordination at the UN and other international venues. Significant attention was given to promoting interaction within the framework of the Russia-Africa Partnership Forum.

The participants in the meeting approved a joint statement.



## **Delegation of Russian Federation Ministry of Defence led by Deputy Defense Minister Colonel General Aleksandr Fomin finishes working visit to Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

### **Делегация Министерства обороны РФ во главе с заместителем министра обороны генерал-полковником Александром Фоминым завершила рабочий визит в Республику Союз Мьянма**



Deputy Defense Minister Aleksandr Fomin and Head of the Myanmar State Administration Council, Army General Min Aung Hlaing had talks in the framework of the visit to the capital of Myanmar, Naypyidaw.

The Russian deputy defence minister congratulated Min Aung Hlaing on the 80th anniversary since the RUM Armed Forces activation.

He gave a congratulations letter on behalf of Russian Federation Defense Minister Andrei Belousov.

The officials discussed military and defence-technical cooperation during the meeting.

‘We consider the meeting as an excellent opportunity to exchange views on present-day issues of the current agenda. First of all it touches upon military and defense-

technical cooperation’, said Aleksandr Fomin.

He also added that the previous visit of the Myanmar head to Russia made it possible to come up with key agreements and determine the long-term development vector for Myanmar-Russia cooperation.

‘Today’s meeting will enable to develop full range of mutually beneficial defence partnership’, said Deputy Defense Minister Aleksandr Fomin.

In his turn, the head of the RUM Min Aung Hlaing noted:

‘Seventy-seven years ago Russia and Myanmar established diplomatic relations. Over the years, we have had successful multi-sectoral cooperation. It is crucial to say, that there are results.’

Also, the members of the Russian delegation have been distinguished guests at the festive parade and solemn reception dedicated to the 80th Anniversary of the RUM Armed Forces activation.

Furthermore, delegates of the Public Council attached to the Russian Ministry of Defense, as part of the Russian delegation, discussed with representatives of the Myanmar Armed Forces issues related to the formation of Myanmar Armed Forces structure that will be similar to the Russian one and the popularisation of conscript service due to the recently adopted universal military service law in the Republic of Myanmar.



## Russian and Indian ships train artillery fire during INDRA NAVY 2025 exercise

### Корабли ВМФ России и ВМС Индии провели артиллерийские стрельбы в рамках военно-морского учения «Индра Нэви-2025»



Bay of Bengal

Sailors of friendly countries practised:

- manoeuvring;
- fighting unmanned aerial and surface vehicles of the mock enemy;
- firing at sea- and air-based targets;
- convoying vessels;
- resupplying ships on march by the Pechenga tanker employing the traverse method.

Ship-borne helicopters of the participating states were involved. The Russian Ka-27M touched down

on the Indian destroyer Rana and the Indian Chetak rotary-wing aircraft landed on the board of the Russian corvette.

Russia is represented by the corvettes, Rezky and Aldar Tsydenzhapov, and the tanker Pechenga. India is represented by the Rana destroyer and the Kutar corvette.

The ships of the states returned to the Chennai port to sum up the results of the drills, and join the official closing ceremony.



# SPECIAL MILITARY OPERATION СПЕЦИАЛЬНАЯ ВОЕННАЯ ОПЕРАЦИЯ



[https://t.me/mod\\_russia/50811](https://t.me/mod_russia/50811)



[https://t.me/mod\\_russia/50834](https://t.me/mod_russia/50834)



## The School at the Russian Embassy in the USA participates in the traditional international action “Garden of Memory”

### Общеобразовательная школа при Посольстве России в США участвует в традиционной международной акции «Сад памяти»

The 10th grade students of the School at the Russian Embassy in the United States became participants of the traditional international action “Garden of Memory”, which started on March 18, 2025 in the hero-city of Sevastopol. This year it is dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the Great Victory and the Year of the Defender of the Fatherland.

In the Greeting of the President of the Russian Federation V. Putin to the organizers and participants of the international action “Garden

of Memory” reads: “I am sure that such large-scale, popular events carry out a special, responsible mission: they consolidate society around stable spiritual and moral values, foster respect for the heroic pages of national history. And, of course, they serve to preserve our natural riches, to increase ecological culture”.

Volunteers from more than 78 countries took part in the campaign. Under the guidance of the experienced mentor V.Kalchuk they carried out spring agro-technical works on care

of young lilac seedlings: loosened the soil, applied fertilizers and nutrients

. Andrey Ledenev, minister-counselor of the Russian Embassy in the USA, actively helped the students.



## A lecture on Eurasian integration

### Лекция, посвященная евразийской интеграции



On April 3, the School at the Russian Embassy in the United States hosted a lecture on Eurasian integration by Minister Counselor A.A. Ledenev. Schoolchildren learned about the history of the EAEU, its role in the international arena and achievements in the formation of a common

market. Mr. Ledenev spoke about the Union's agreements with other countries as an example of mutually beneficial cooperation between states. The presentation raised the young listeners' interest in the activities of the Eurasian Economic Union and stimulated their desire to study the organization's projects.



## “Victory Bouquet” in Washington, DC

### «Букет Победы» в Вашингтоне.



The Russian Cultural Center in Washington became a meeting place for young compatriots and students of the School of the Russian Embassy in the United States who took part in the “Victory Bouquet” event. This event brought together children who were ready to create paper carnations with their own hands - symbols of memory and respect for the soldiers who fought for their homeland.

The “Victory Bouquet” project unites compatriots from 80 countries of the world. Paper flowers are passed from hand to hand - from frame to frame to make a single symbolic bouquet of 80 carnations, symbolizing 80 years since the Great Victory. This bouquet will be laid at the Eternal

Flame in Moscow as a sign of gratitude and remembrance of the heroes.

During the event, RCC activists told the young guests about the exploits of children during the Great Patriotic War, sharing touching stories and testing their knowledge of the events of those years.

Anna Kiryakova, coordinator of the Immortal Regiment in Washington, DC, gave a presentation on “Children-Heroes of War,” inspiring the young participants to be proud of their history and remember those who fought for a peaceful sky above their heads.

This uniting of generations and cultures was an important step in preserving historical memory and fostering patriotism in young people.



**WE REMEMBER  
МЫ ПОМНИМ**

**On March 29, 1942 the first partisan convoy carrying food supplies reached Leningrad**

**29 марта 1942 года в Ленинград доставлен первый партизанский обоз с продовольствием**



On March 29, 1942, during the harshest period of the Siege of Leningrad, the first partisan convoy carrying food supplies reached the besieged city. Braving enemy lines, the partisans managed to break through the front and deliver 42 tonnes of life-saving provisions to those starving in Leningrad.

The blockade had been sealed in September 1941, trapping more than 2.5 million people inside the

city, including 400'000 children inside. They endured horrific hunger, relentless bombings took a heavy toll, and the harsh winter added to their suffering. The Road of Life had yet to be established.

The situation was also dire in the occupied Pskov and Novgorod regions, where Nazi forces carried out mass executions and deportations to labour camps. Yet, resistance never ceased. Deep behind enemy lines, the

Soviet people formed the first partisan stronghold of the Great Patriotic War — the Partisan Land.

Upon learning of the desperate conditions in Leningrad, the partisans resolved to help the starving and freezing residents of the city. In early March, they assembled a supply convoy carrying 28 tonnes of flour and over 14 tonnes of other essential provisions.

To reach the city, the partisans had to break through two heavily fortified German defensive lines: first, the encirclement around the Partisan Land, and then the main frontline. The convoy travelled only at night, hiding their sleds and horses in the forests during the day to avoid detection.

After covering over 100 kilometres behind enemy lines, the convoy successfully delivered vital food supplies to Leningrad. These 42 tonnes of supplies saved countless lives at a time when thousands of people were dying each day.

Along with the provisions, a letter to the city's residents was included: "We stand with you, dear friends, comrades in arms... Greetings to you, our hero-city, our mighty Leningrad!"

The Partisan Land ceased to exist in September 1942. The Nazis burned villages to the ground and massacred the civilians who had lived there.

Nearly all the heroes who had risked their lives to bring food to Leningrad perished.

To honour their sacrifice, March 29 is commemorated in the Leningrad region as Partisan Glory Day.



## Alexey Fyodorov, the legendary partisan commander

### Алексей Фёдорович Фёдоров — легендарный командир партизанского движения



On March 30, 1901, Alexey Fyodorov, the legendary partisan commander and two times Hero of the Soviet Union, was born. His name became a symbol of resistance against the Nazi invaders during the Great Patriotic War.

In 1920 he volunteered for the Red Army, fought in the Civil War and, after demobilisation, worked in railway construction. In 1938 Alexey Fyodorov became head of the Chernigov Regional Committee of the Communist Party (Bolsheviks)

of the Ukrainian SSR, showcasing his leadership acumen and talent.

Shortly after the Nazis invaded, he took command of partisan units in the Chernigov region, began conducting large-scale sabotage operations behind enemy lines.

By March 1942 the partisans had fought 16 major battles under his command, eliminating some thousand German soldiers & officers, derailed five enemy trains carrying personnel and equipment, destroyed five warehouses, two factories and 33 bridges.

For his skilful leadership and personal bravery, Alexey Fyodorov was awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union on May 18, 1942.

By the beginning of 1943, the unit under Alexey Fyodorov's command included 12 partisan units with 5,000+ fighters.

From March to June 1943, the partisan unit was relocated to Volyn, thus expanding the area of active operations on the Nazi-occupied territories, including parts of Soviet Belarus, Bryansk, and Oryol regions. In April 1943, Alexey Fyodorov was promoted to the rank of Major-General.

One of the most important operations carried out by Alexey Fyodorov's units was the "Kovel Node." Starting July 7, 1943, until March 14, 1944, 549 enemy trains carrying ammunition, fuel, military equipment, and personnel were destroyed on the lines of the Kovel railway junction.

For flawless execution of operational tasks, heroic feats and courage, Alexey Fyodorov was awarded a second "Golden Star" medal on January 4, 1944, becoming a two times Hero of the Soviet Union. He was also awarded three Orders of Lenin, the Order of Suvorov I, and numerous other honours.

After the war he held high government posts, including Minister of Social Welfare of the Ukrainian SSR. He wrote several books about the war, the most famous of which was "The Underground Regional Committee in Action". He left valuable memoirs about the heroic struggle of the partisans, which became an important contribution to history.

On September 9, 1989, Alexey Fyodorov passed away. In his memory, a monument was erected in the Chernigov region.

Unfortunately, in 2017, the monument to this legendary Soviet hero was destroyed by the Ukrainian Neo-Nazis, the Banderites, driven by deep hatred for the victors over their Nazi idols as it was the partisans under Alexey Fyodorov's command who collected evidence and numerous testimonies regarding the the crimes of the OUN-UPA militants, including committed in collaboration with the Nazis.

#LestWeForget No matter how much some may wish to erase Alexey Fyodorov's memory & legacy — #WeRemember.

## The famous sniper of the Great Patriotic War Roza Shanina

Рнаменитый снайпер Великой Отечественной войны,  
кавалер ордена Славы Роза Шанина



**Roza Shanina**  
sniper

On April 3, 1924, famous sniper of the Great Patriotic War Roza Shanina was born.

In 1938, at the age of 14, Roza moved to Arkhangelsk, enrolled in a pedagogical school and worked as a kindergarten teacher.

After the Great Patriotic War began and three of her brothers were killed at the front, Roza decided to volunteer. In 1943, she was sent to the Central Women's Sniper Training School from which she graduated with honours in less than a year. Roza

insisted on being sent to the front line, refusing to be an instructor.

As part of the women's sniper platoon of the 3rd Belorussian Front, she participated in the liberation of Vitebsk, Vilnius and Kaunas, and later fought in East Prussia.

Shanina was famous for her marksmanship, including her ability to hit two targets with two shots in rapid succession. During the war, she killed an estimated 59 to 75 Nazis.

Roza kept a war diary, despite soldiers being prohibited to do



so. There she shared her thoughts, emotions, and plans for the future. She wrote that after the war she would devote herself to raising orphaned children and stressed that she was ready to die for her Motherland.

Roza's heroism was rewarded with two Orders of Glory 2nd and 3rd class. Her feats were covered by the Soviet and foreign press, where she was described as "the invisible terror of East Prussia".

Roza perished just a few months before the Victory. She was killed on January 28, 1945, during the Insterburg-Königsberg operation, while shielding the commander of an artillery unit. She was only 20 years old.

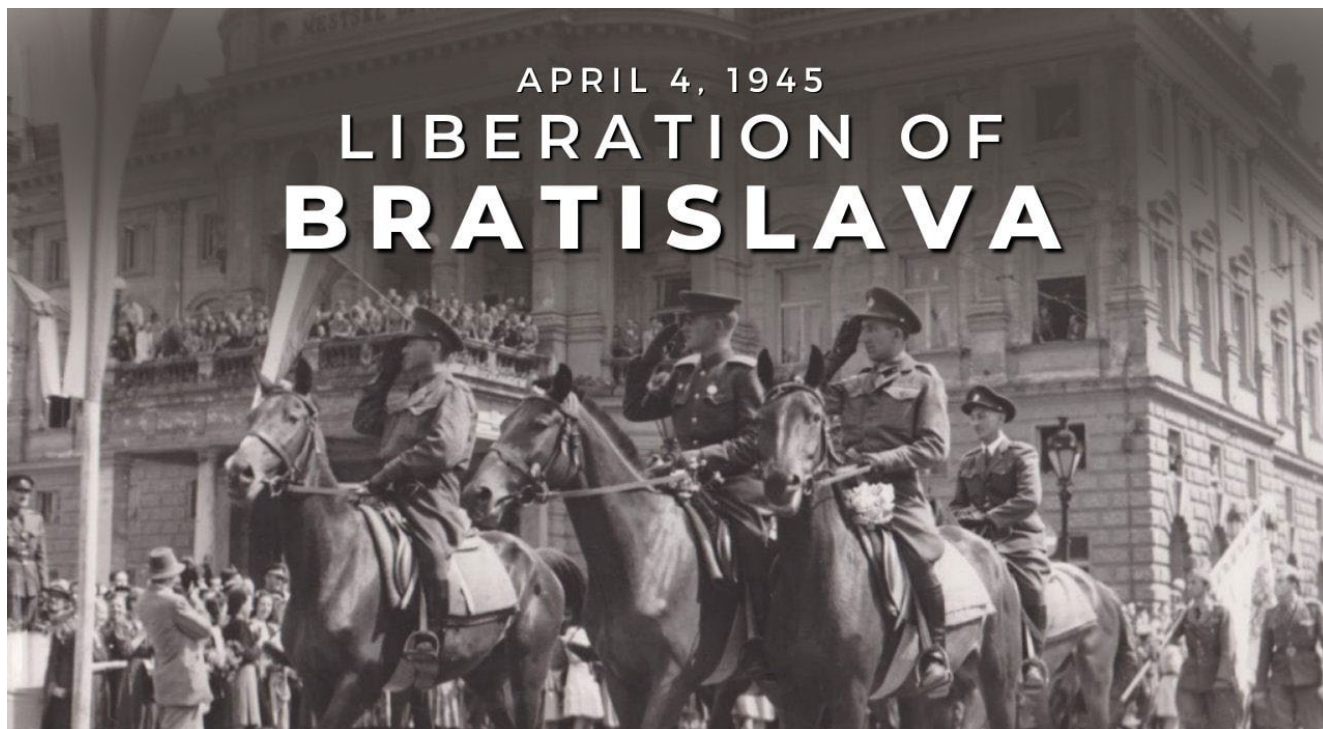
Ten days before she was killed, she made a last entry in her diary: "I did no more than any Soviet citizen would have done by rising to the defence of my Motherland."

Roza Shanina was buried at a Soviet war memorial in Znamenka, Kaliningrad Region. A street in Arkhangelsk was named in her honour, and buildings related to the life of the famous sniper still stand in her native village of Yedma. A copy of Shanina's diary is kept in the Ustyansky Museum of Local History.

Roza Shanina's name will forever remain in history as an example of true bravery and self-sacrifice.

## Liberation of Bratislava

## Освобождение Братиславы



April 4 marks the 80th Anniversary of the liberation of Bratislava from Nazi invaders, expelled from the capital of Slovakia as a result of the Bratislava-Brno offensive operation (March 25 – May 5, 1945), which involved units of the 2nd Ukrainian Front, commanded by Marshal Rodion Malinovsky.

Marshal Matvey Zakharov, Chief of Staff of the 2nd Ukrainian Front:

Before advancing on Bratislava, the front's command established communications with Slovak partisans, who proved invaluable. They provided crucial intelligence

about the German fortification system, plans for defending specific cities, as well as the strength and organisation of the enemy forces.

On March 25, Soviet forces launched an offensive on the heavily fortified city. In an effort to minimise civilian casualties and destruction, the Soviet high command opted not to use large-calibre artillery systems, primarily deploying assault infantry units instead.

By April 2, Soviet forces had entered the eastern and north-eastern districts of the city. On April 4, Red Army forces reached Bratislavsky

Hrad, a fortress in central Bratislava, where the remaining German garrison was holed up. The city fell by the end of the day, with scattered Nazi units retreating towards Vienna.

Soviet authorities immediately began efforts to restore normal life in the city. Archive documents from the Russian Defence Ministry, declassified ahead of the 75th Anniversary of Bratislava's liberation, indicate that rubble and debris had been cleared from the city's central streets and squares by April 10, 1945. The sewage system was reactivated, and people began returning to their homes from nearby villages.

As a result of the Bratislava-Brno operation, the forces of the 2nd Ukrainian Front advanced 200 km, destroyed 9 Wehrmacht divisions and created conditions for further offensive operations towards Prague and Vienna.

The military units that distinguished themselves in the battles for the city were awarded the honorary title of "Bratislava".

A total of 6'845 Soviet officers and soldiers lost their lives while fighting in Bratislava, most of whom are buried at the Slavin military memorial complex in the centre of the Slovak capital.

Every year on April 4, this complex hosts commemorative events dedicated to the city's liberation from Nazi invaders, with participation from Russian representatives. This year, a delegation of students from MGIMO University will take part in the event.

In total, 63'518 Red Army officers and soldiers were killed while liberating Slovakia.

Simultaneously, the forces of the 3rd Ukrainian Front halted a major German offensive south of Lake Balaton in Hungary, where the German high command had deployed its best remaining tank units, amid fierce and brutal fighting.

The Red Army pursued the retreating enemy units and completely liberated Hungary by April 4.

The Wehrmacht's further resistance was futile from a military and strategic perspective, serving only as an attempt by Hitler and his inner circle to delay their inevitable downfall by sacrificing the lives of hundreds of thousands of their compatriots.

Over 140'000 Soviet officers and soldiers were killed or went missing while liberating Hungary. There are 1'231 Russian (Soviet) burial sites in the country, including 1'036 that date back to the World War II period.



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