

Symbols of Victory. Matryona Volskaya

Annotation:

A Soviet teacher led 3,225 children 200 km through forests and swamps, saving them from being hijacked to Germany. There are some events that must always be remembered. These include the Great Patriotic War. And the exploits of ordinary Soviet citizens who risked their lives to save people should definitely be remembered.

Matryona Isaevna Volskaya was a primary school teacher in the village of Basino, Smolensk region, before the war. When the Germans captured Smolensk region in October 41, they began to implement their own order in the occupied territories, according to the Reich plan, it was necessary to reduce the number of local residents. In November of the 41st, our heroine joined the Batya partisan detachment with her husband, she was a scout.



Matryona Isaevna Volskaya and children

In the early summer of 1942, the German Reich ordered the liquidation of the Smolensk partisan movement. The punitive plan "Yellow Elephant" was developed. Since the enemy had much more forces, the squad began to prepare for the upcoming fight. First of all, it was decided to save

the children, who could have been shot or abducted to Germany. The commander of the detachment gave the operation the name "Children". And it was Matryona Volskaya who was appointed responsible for this operation.

Attempts to get children out of the Smolensk region began as soon as the Germans came to these territories. They managed to bring out groups of 100-200 children. But, due to the upcoming battles, it was necessary to bring out as many children as possible. The operation was kept secret. They examined all the ways where it was possible to cross the front line. Maps of the mined areas were drawn up. Children from all over the Smolensk region began to be secretly gathered and transferred to Eliseevichi. This village was controlled by the partisans. 2,000 children were gathered. And on July 23rd, a crowd of children set off under the guidance of a pregnant teacher.

They had to walk almost 200 kilometers through forests and swamps. It was necessary to get through the front line to the Toropets station in the Kalinin region to the train that would take them beyond the Urals. Matryona's assistants on the road were Varvara Sergeevna Polyakova, a teacher, and Ekaterina Ivanovna Gromova, a nurse.

The column of children stretched for several kilometers. When everyone was resting at night, Matryona went 10-15 kilometers ahead according to the planned exploration. And in the morning she returned, and at dawn the detachment marched on.

Soon, the food that the children took on the road ran out. They had to eat berries and grass. It was getting harder to move every day. It was very thirsty. However, the wells they encountered on the way were poisoned by the invaders. And it was impossible to take water in reservoirs: corpses were floating there.

During the journey, the convoy of children came under fire more than once. Only they managed to hide in the woods, so no one was injured. As the group made their way through the forests, new children joined them from villages and burned villages.

On July 29, four trucks and a half arrived to meet the convoy. The weakest were put in cars and taken to Toropets station. The rest of the guys had to get to this station for three days. Their entire journey took 10 days. A column of exhausted children and three adults arrived in Toropets on August 1. There they were joined by another thousand guys.

On the night of August 5, Matryona put 3,240 children in the train. There was very little food provided at the station. The children were hungry. The Red Army soldiers helped. At first, it was decided to take the children to the Urals. Only Matryona, looking at the exhausted children, understood that few children would make it alive. And she began to send telegrams from the road to Moscow and to all the cities on the Volga. The city of Gorky responded to her plea to accept the children.

On the morning of August 14, representatives of the City Council, doctors and volunteers met the train. It was written in the admission certificate: "The children have a terrible appearance, they have absolutely no clothes and shoes. 3,225 children were accepted from Volskaya."

Yes, the children looked terrible. But, everyone survived!



Monument to Matryona Volskaya

Upon arrival, Matryona Volskaya was sent to work in the Gorodetsky district at the Artyukhinsky school. And from the following year until the end of 1976, Matryona worked at the Smolkovsky school. Matryona went through the whole campaign while pregnant, after which she gave birth very hard, and gave birth to a son. After the end of the war and demobilization, her husband, Mikhail Arkhipovich, came to her. In total, the couple had four children.

Matryona was awarded the Order of the Red Banner of Battle in January 1943 for her courage and heroism in combat. And for her work at the school, Matryona Isaevna received the title of "Excellent Student of

Public Education."

In 1975, Matryona and 32 participants of the transition met. The memories of the squad members are reflected in the book "Operation Children", which was published in 1986.

Vocabulary:

partisan detachment - партизанский отряд

punitive plan - карательный план

squad - команда

guidance - руководство

exhausted children - измученные дети



The great teacher

Activities:

1. Discuss the role of education and schools during the war.
2. Find examples of teachers' courage during the war. Prepare a presentation on the topic of the teacher and the war. 6-8 slides

Discuss:

1. How many children were saved by Matryona Volskaya?
2. Using a map of the USSR during the war, draw a way to save children.