

"No Return" Or the Tragic Fate of the 44th Cavalry Division

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ANNOTATION

The article tells about the heroic struggle of the 44th Cavalry division formed in the city of Chirchik, Tashkent region in the battles with the Fascist invaders on the outskirts of Moscow.

KEYWORDS: *44th cavalry division, World War II, Soviet Army, Chirchik, Tashkent region.*

INTRODUCTION

The multinational people of Uzbekistan, along with all progressive humanity, took an active part in the Second World War in 1941-1945 and made a worthy contribution to ensuring the great Victory over fascism. The bravery and heroism of our nation during the war years is a great school of courage and a source of pride for us, and with the passing of time, the importance of these immortal values is increasing more and more. Therefore, every year May 9 is widely celebrated in our country as the Day of Remembrance and Appreciation. Paying deep respect to the memory of our ancestors who died in the Second World War, it has become a noble tradition in our country to show special attention and respect to our veterans who fought against fascism and fought on the labor front.

The Second World War was an unprecedentedly large and terrible war in the history of the world, which imposed heavy burdens on the entire humanity.

Economic and labor resources of Uzbekistan were mobilized to the front. During this period, a new labor regime was introduced in Uzbekistan, that is, the working day was extended, weekends and working holidays were abolished. By the end of 1941, Uzbek industrialists rebuilt about 300 enterprises adapting them to the production of military equipment, weapons, and ammunition. In these enterprises, the men mobilized to the front were replaced by the elderly and women.

At the beginning of the war, about 20,000 women from Tashkent went to work in industrial enterprises and constructions, and about 1,700 women from the republic went to work in coal mines. Measures were taken to provide production with workers and specialists. The activities of republican higher and secondary special educational institutions, vocational and technical educational institutions, and factory-plant educational schools were directed to the training of personnel suitable for the requirements of the war period. Vocational training was started individually and as a team. Residents of the villages of our republic stood up to provide the front and rear of the front with food and raw materials for industry.

II. MATERIAL AND METHODS

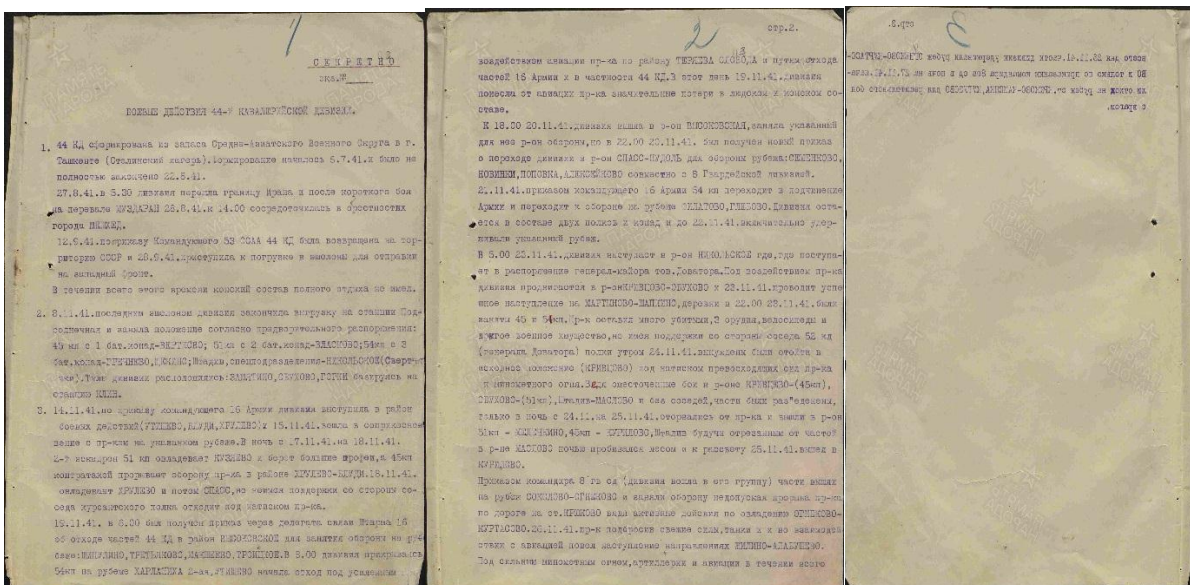
During the Second World War, Tashkent region became not only a source of supplies of weapons and food for the Soviet Army, but also a supplier of valiant fighters who fought life-and-death battles with the enemy. During the study of archival sources, there is information that more than ten military units and units were formed and sent to the front from Tashkent region alone. They are the 69th, 89th, 92nd, 162nd, 416th separate rifle brigades, 99th, 44th mountain cavalry divisions, 34th bomber aviation regiment, 34-35th combined cadet brigades. [1] 14 national military units and 22 combat military units and divisions were formed from Uzbekistan itself, according to the instructions of the USSR Defense Committee, their total number was 36. [2] There is information that most of them

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were transferred to other units and parts as a result of the death of the main part of the personnel during the fierce battles.

III. DISCUSSION AND RESULT

The main heroes of today's story are the 44th Cavalry Division formed in Chirchik, Tashkent region. For a long time, the tragic fate of this cavalry division in the battles of defense of Moscow was hidden. After the archive documents were declassified, their fate was clarified. Even today, it is a topic that causes a lot of noise in the social networks of the Internet among those interested in the history of the Second World War. The most interesting feature is the reminiscences of both German and Russian historians about the participation of the 44th Cavalry Division in the battles for the defense of Moscow. The 44th Cavalry Division, commanded by Lieutenant General KK Rokossovsky, was part of the 16th Army. In November and December 1941, during the military operations of the Nazi troops to occupy Moscow, the main task was to protect the city, regardless of the number of casualties. The main forces of the Soviet Army were thrown into the defense of Moscow. In a similar situation, the units formed in Uzbekistan joined the forces forming the defense of Moscow. In the battles for the defense of Moscow, Lieutenant General K.K. The main forces of Rokossovsky's 16th army were encircled in Vyazmada, but when they got out of the encirclement, the main part of the personnel was killed, so they began to reorganize the troops. General K.K. Rokossovsky recalls in his memoir "Military duty" that "the 17th, 20th, 24th and 44th cavalry divisions arrived from Central Asia (each of them had more than 3,000 soldiers) formed the second echelon... [3] " The victory in the battles for the defense of Moscow stopped the offensive military operations of Nazi Germany and was their first major defeat. But we should not forget that the victory of the Soviet troops at the threshold of Moscow was accomplished at the cost of human lives. Was the attack of the 44th Cavalry Division formed in Uzbekistan against the Nazi 4th Tank Army a diversionary operation or the consequences of a military illiterate plan? In order to clarify this issue, we will study the historical documents available to us. What was the development of events. In the diaries of the 44th Cavalry Division, it happened on the north-eastern side of the village of Musino, on November 16-17, 1941, during the continuation of the counterattack together with the 58th tank division.



In the military record of the 44th Cavalry Division, without giving any information about the battles of November 16 near the village of Musino, it is stated that "by the order of the commander of the 16th Army, successful military operations were carried out against the enemy in the population centers of Utishevo, Bludi and Khrulevo." But you will not find any information about the 44th

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Cavalry Division being thrown against the enemy's 4th Tank Army near the village of Musino. At this point, we focus on the memories of the commander of the German 4th tank group, Colonel-General Erich Goepner, about the battles on the outskirts of Moscow.[4]

In his diaries, he noted that on November 16, the 2nd Panzer Division under the command of Infantry General Ruof, the 35th and 106th Infantry Divisions It was intended to capture the city of Klin in the direction of Volokolamsk and turn to the southeast, cutting off Moscow from the north. The Soviet troops will try to stop this plan of the enemy by any means, intense fighting has reached its climax. The 44th Cavalry Division, which had just arrived from Uzbekistan, was hastily thrown into the defense of Moscow.

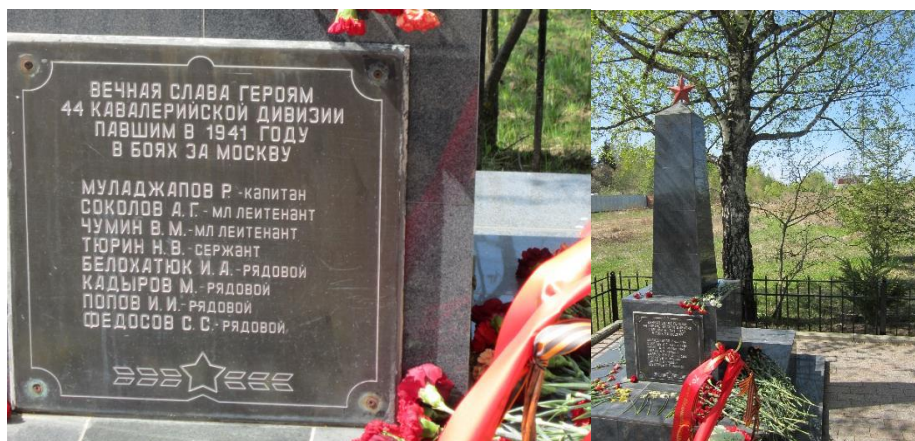
The details of the battle in the Musino area on November 17, 1941 are described in the memoirs of the commander of the German 4th tank group, Colonel-General Erich Goepner. "At 9:00 a.m., with the spread of thick fog, the winter landscape is visible to our eyes. Our troops were located on a hill about 3 kilometers from the forest, and there was a very wide area between the forest and the troops, which gave us the opportunity to repulse any enemy attack and launch a counter-attack. At 10:00 a.m., 60-70 cavalymen suddenly appear on the scene of military operations, and they disappear in a second as a result of the shells fired from cannons exploding in front of them. [5]The appearance of cavalry creates the impression that there are cavalry troops in the Soviet army under the German command. The German command does not pay any attention to this. Suddenly, 4 Soviet tanks appeared near the village of Parfinikovo, and for some reason, there were no infantry around these tanks that attacked. In this place well-camouflaged moisture tanks opened fire on them and destroyed them one by one. It was all just a test of strength before the big battle that was about to begin. The development of events began to take place rapidly, cavalry troops were seen moving through the forest, they attacked the enemy in an open area of 3 kilometers. At first 50, 100, then 300 and thousands of horsemen went to the attack. The fighters of the 44th Cavalry Division, leaning on their horses, rushed to the battlefield, raising swords against the enemy.

It was unthinkable that a cavalry division would attack the area where the Nazi 2nd tank division, 35th and 106th infantry regiments had artillery guns. The commander of the German 4th tank group, Colonel-General Erich Goepner, described the attack of the 44th Cavalry Division as follows: "The Asian horsemen, who came out of the forest in a disorderly manner, quickly lined up in three lions and began to move eastward away from the forest. Their actions looked unimaginably amazing on a sunny winter day. Their squadron attacked in the same order, running their horses. In my imagination, it was as if I fell into the period of the Mongol invasion in the Middle Ages.[6]

The Nazi troops had prepared their tanks and artillery before the cavalry squadron approached. The German observation officer reports the firing positions by means of communication. Tank, artillery and machine gun fire became intense. According to witnesses, more than two thousand riders of the 44th Cavalry Division were killed in six minutes. The bodies of dead warriors and horses were scattered on the battlefield. Faced with inevitable death, the fighters of the 44th Cavalry Division of Uzbekistan did not even dream of retreating or fleeing for their lives. [7]Similarly, the 17th Cavalry Division was thrown into the tank army and all its fighters were killed.

At this point, one question escapes the human imagination, why were cavalry fighters thrown into tank units? There is almost no clear answer to this question. Only the battles in the direction of Klin played an important role in the defense of Moscow, especially in closing the 316th division of General Panfilov north of Volokolamsk.

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On November 17, 1941, the 44th Cavalry Division, formed in the city of Chirchiq, Uzbekistan, consisting mainly of horsemen from Kashkadarya and Surkhandarya, died heroically in an unequal battle against the 4th tank army of fascist shepherds in the Musino region. Perhaps this bravery of theirs influenced the future fate of the commander of the 4th tank group of the Germans, Colonel-General Erich Goepner, because after the defeat on the outskirts of Moscow, Colonel-General Erich Goepner was personally reduced to the rank of a private soldier and dismissed from the army by order of Hitler. On June 20, 1944, he took part in the assassination of the bloodthirsty Hitler, who brought Germany to the brink of disaster, and was hanged on August 8, 1944.

IV. CONCLUSION

Thus, the courage of the Uzbek people on the war fronts, selfless work inside the country became a direct component of the victorious end of the Second World War. In the years after the war, "Memory" books were created in order to restore and appreciate the memory of those who died. Great attention is paid to this good work, especially in the years of independence. In our capital, Tashkent, Khatira Square, and the memorial complex of the bereaved mother have been restored. Memorial complexes were also built in regional centers. By the decree of the head of state, who led these activities, May 9 was declared the "Day of Remembrance and Appreciation".

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