

## COURAGE OF THE OASIS PEOPLE BEHIND THE FRONT DURING THE WAR YEARS

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### Abstract

The article scientifically analyzes the sources on the contribution of the Uzbek people to the Great Victory during the Second World War, the life, courage and fortitude of our compatriots, the heroism of the people of Surkhandarya region at the front, the humanitarianism of the Uzbek people from the first days of the war, the kindness of the people in strengthening the friendship of peoples, the kindness of the heart to those who were resettled in the oasis, and the provision of all-round practical assistance to them.

**Keywords:** Front, scourge of fascism, displacement, mobilization, friendship of nations, military sphere, evacuation, regions, steadfast, humanitarian, friendship of nations, military commissariat, defense, material goods, war, heroism, kindness, patriotism, courage.

### Introduction

The issue of maintaining peace in the processes of globalization in the world is one of the most urgent problems. All peace-loving powers are united in their desire to prevent the recurrence of those terrible events of the Second World War. This is considered an important step towards preventing new wars and commemorating the victims of the Second World War. In addition, an objective study of the history of the Second World War, which the Uzbek people bravely endured, is an urgent task. If we summarize the processes related to the fate of the nation and people during these war years, we can witness the implementation of work on ensuring the freedom of the homeland, which is of great importance for centuries.

The Second World War is considered one of the most tragic historical events in the history of mankind of the 20th century. 62 out of 73 independent states at that time participated in the Second World War, and this process covered 80 percent of the world's population. According to rough estimates, 60 million people were killed in this war, in which 110 million armed soldiers participated. Therefore, it is recognized that this war truly became a real World War. History, present and future generations will never forget that millions of innocent people lost their lives during the Second World War, how many families were destroyed and how many children were orphaned. This victory is undoubtedly a great date that will remain in the history of the peoples of the world forever. Since this date is also recognized internationally, the proclamation of May 8 and 9 as the Day of Remembrance and Reconciliation in November 2004 by the UN General Assembly resolution in memory of the victims of World War II is considered one of the important events in this regard. Because it was this victory that saved humanity from countless disasters. Therefore, the significance of the victory over fascism in World War II will never lose its value, and this topic will remain relevant.

### **Analysis of Literature on the Topic**

In covering the topic, the bravery of the people of the Surkhandarya oasis during the Second World War is shown on the basis of historical sources. The issue raised in the article is a relatively understudied area in the field of historiography.

Many works have been created about the bravery of the people of Surkhandarya during the war years. However, Sh. Karimov's work "Contribution to Victory"[1] highlights the contribution of the Uzbek people to the front, Tursunov S., Pardayev T. Sherobod's courage during the Great Patriotic War[2], S. Tursunov, O. Soatov, Kh. Juraev's "Memory Lives - Honor Forever"[3], O. Soatov, S. Tursunov and K. Toshov's "Letters from the Front"[4] highlight the patriotic feelings and courage shown in the letters sent from the heart to the people of the Surkhon oasis, and O. Soatov, S. Tursunov and K. Toshov's "Sacrificing Souls for the Motherland"[5] describes the strong-willed representatives of our martyred people who sacrificed their lives for the sake of our homeland.

### **Research Methodology**

In covering the topic, the methods of historical science, such as historicity, objectivity, problematic chronology, sequence, comparative, comparison, and consistency from simple to complex, were generally used. A true study of the history of Surkhandarya and understanding its essence will help students to understand the sources of the historical traditions of their ancestors, their historical content. This indicates that the task of forming the historical consciousness of the younger generation is aimed at fulfilling the task.

### **Analysis and Results**

Information about the selflessness and courage of our compatriots who fought against fascism, the heavy losses suffered by the inhabitants of the oasis serve to instill in the younger generation the idea of patriotism, courage, and defense of the homeland in a new spirit.

During the war years, along with all peace-loving peoples, the inhabitants of the Surkhandarya oasis showed a special example of courage in the fight against fascism.

The Uzbek people became an example to the whole world with their human qualities and nobility during the war years. The displaced people found refuge in this country, and the Uzbek people, although they did not have enough, shared their bread with them.

Until March 1942, 719 families or 1862 people were evacuated to the Surkhandarya region. Of the evacuated population, 480 were men, 1059 were women, and 323 were children. 1480 of the evacuated population were able-bodied. Those able-bodied were quickly involved in production. In particular, 1209 of this population were placed in agricultural farms, and 271 people were placed in various organizations and institutions [6].

In 1942, Tashkent women issued an appeal to all women of the republic. The appeal addressed all Uzbeks: "Let us intensify the nationwide work of providing public assistance to children evacuated to Uzbekistan and left without care. Let the family of every worker, every collective farmer, employee, intellectual, every enterprise, collective farm and state farm actively participate in the placement and upbringing of these children." The people of the Surkhandarya oasis, who joined the appeal of the women from Tashkent, also began to provide diligent care for children left without parents. The people

of the region collected 188,000 soums as assistance to children left without parents and transferred the money to the Fund for Children Left Without Parents[7].

The people of kind Surkhandarya also actively participated in the work of bringing children left without parents to their homes. Among such noble people, Egamberdi Quvvatov, a resident of the village of Gurjak in the Sherabad district, took in a five-year-old boy, Iskandarova Kunduz, a two-year-old girl, Jorayev Kholik, an eight-year-old boy, Galiyeva, a three-year-old boy, Lesenkin, an employee of the regional public education department, V. Korchak, a two-three-year-old girl and boy, and K.I. Kolesova, a housewife, took in a two-year-old girl[8]. Grandfather Imam and grandmother Kurbanoy, who lived in the village of Khatak, took in a baby who had lost his parents due to the war in early 1945 and named him Khudoyberdi. By the second half of 1942, the number of resettled residents in the region was increasing. By 1943, another 966 people were brought to the region. Of the resettled population, 121 were men, 437 were women, 8 were children aged 1 to 8, and 200 were adolescents aged 8 to 16. The orphans were placed in orphanages in Termez, Baysun, and other cities.

The evacuated working-age population was placed in various production enterprises depending on their specialization. In particular, Leningrad geologist-professor Vyalov Oleg Stepanovich got a job as a geologist at the Voroshilov Neft trust. G.B. Yablonovskaya, who worked as a doctor in the city of Feodosia of the Crimean ASSR before the war, got a job as a doctor at the regional health department, and R.B. Lermon, a student at Kiev University, began working as a proofreader in the Leninskaya Znamya newspaper.

The evacuated population was very warmly welcomed by the residents of the region, they were provided with various assistance and shelter. In particular, 1,283 Polish citizens settled in the Saryosiy district, 575 people were relocated to the Denov district. 548 people found shelter in the Shorchi district. The generous salt workers allocated 2,615 soums as aid to the victims of the evacuation, and material assistance was provided to 59 people. They also provided humanitarian aid with 81 items of various household goods, including 23 blankets, 20 shirts, 18 pants, two pairs of boots, one pair of shoes and other various products.

Riyozat Muminova, the first woman from Surkhandarya to receive a higher education in law, worked for several years as a judge in Denov, Shorchi, and Sariosiyo districts, and in 1948-1949 as the chairman of the court of the Termez district. In 1942, Riyozat Muminova gave the house left to her father in Termez to the Termez military garrison to accommodate the evacuees. The Turkestan Military District immediately reported this to the then leader of the Soviet Union, I. Stalin. In response, Stalin sent a telegram expressing his gratitude to Riyozat Muminova[9, B.131].

In accordance with the Resolution of the Uzbek SSR Central Committee and the Central Committee of the CPSU (b) of January 9, 1942, the Surkhandarya Regional Executive Committee adopted Resolution No. 25 on January 12, 1942 "On the establishment of regional, city and district commissions for the placement and upbringing of evacuated orphans"[10]. It established the Regional Commission for the placement and upbringing of orphans evacuated from the front line under the Surkhandarya Regional Executive Committee.

On February 5, 1943, by decision of the Sherabad District Executive Committee, a 120-bed orphanage was established in the Sherabad district center for children who had been orphaned and left unattended due to the war. All collective farms and state farms were tasked with caring for the orphanage. The Regional Executive Committee was asked to allocate funds for the necessary expenses for the

orphanage[11]. The residents of the district took care of the children in this orphanage as if they were their own children. Similar orphanages were established in other districts.

On December 11, 1943, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan issued a resolution "On strengthening assistance to the families of military personnel." Based on the resolution, a movement to organize assistance to the families of military personnel began to gain momentum in the regions. In particular, the houses of 1,088 soldiers and 434 officers living in the Uzun district were repaired free of charge, and 959 people were given crops. In addition, 239 centners of grain, 600 centners of vegetables, 200 sheep and goats, 140 pairs of shoes, 250 kg of wool, and 147,000 soums were collected as aid to the families of the soldiers[12].

The regional agricultural workers organized "Hectares of Assistance to Liberated Districts" to help the residents of the districts liberated from enemy occupation. Usually, the organized hectares were plots of land cultivated outside the state plan, and the harvest from them was sent to the residents of the districts liberated from the enemy. In the first days, the residents of the territories liberated from the Nazis were in dire need of food, clothing, and household appliances. This placed a very responsible task before the villagers. Taking into account this situation, the mechanic of the Sherabad district MTS, Odish Chekhemov, and the tractor driver, Safar Ruziyev, were the first in the republic to transfer 10,000 soums and 15,000 soums to the Fund for the Restoration of the National Economy of the liberated districts [13, B.151].

The entire population of the republic, joining their efforts, also began to extend their helping hands to the liberated districts. In particular, members of the Pravda collective farm of the Sariosi district collected 5 sheep, 30 chickens, 100 kg of seeds, 30 books and sent them to the liberated territories and sowed grain on 5 hectares of land for the needs of the population. Members of the collective farm under the Uzun Selsoviet planted grain on 7 hectares of land, raised 6 sheep, 6 goats, 100 kg of dried fruit and 300 kg of vegetables; workers and employees of the Voroshilov artel collected and sent 1 ton of seed barley[8]. The peasants of the Shorchi district planted grain seeds on 100 hectares of land to help the liberated districts[14].

In the January 28, 1943 issue of the newspaper "Ilgor Surkhon Uchun" in the appeal of the youth of the "Lenin Yoli" collective farm of the Boysun district entitled "Let's take fraternal care of our brothers in the liberated regions," the following was said to the youth of Uzbekistan: "Our fighters are delivering new and fierce blows to the enemy and liberating many cities and villages from the hands of the German invaders... However, we cannot remain indifferent to the fate of our brothers whose homes were destroyed by the fascist invaders. It is our sacred duty to extend a fraternal hand to these brothers in restoring their farms. ... Dear youth! Let's intensify the collection of funds and food products for the funds to help the liberated regions. Let's help our brothers who have been liberated from the Nazi executioners."

Proving their appeal with practical work, the youth of the Lenin Yoli collective farm in the Boysun district donated 10,000 soums, 300 kg of grain, and 13 hides to the residents of the liberated districts. In addition, 3 hectares of land were sown with grain with the help of the youth in order to provide fraternal assistance. Through the efforts of the youth of Zharkurgan, who took as an example the initiative of the youth of Boysun, 80 sheep were collected and sent to the liberated districts[15].

On February 16, 1943, Soviet troops liberated the city of Kharkov, and on this occasion, meetings were held in many industrial establishments and collective farms of the region. In particular, employees of

the Termez cotton ginning plant allocated two days' wages for the reconstruction of the city of Kharkov. The employees of the Termez district executive committee donated 5 days' wages to the reconstruction of Kharkov, and the employees of the regional state bank transferred 30,000 soums[16].

The residents of Sherabad district also actively participated in helping the liberated districts. In particular, members of the "Bolshevik" and Y. Okhunbobayev collective farms under the Khojaulkan village council donated 69 sheep and goats, 2 cows, and 2 horses in two days[17]; the "Kyzyl Hero" and Stalin collective farms under the Zarabog village council donated 101 sheep, 4 horses, 6 carpets, 3 fur coats, 120 chickens, 200 iron spoons, and 15 pots; The Stalin collective farm under the Pashkhurt Selsoviet collected 65 sheep and goats, the E. Telman collective farm collected 48 sheep and goats and 2 cows, the "Kyzyl Heroz" collective farm collected 17 sheep, 2 horses, the Chkalov collective farm collected 17 sheep and 200 spoons, bowls and plates, and 300 iron spoons. By February 16, 1943, the workers of the district had collected and sent a total of 7,808 kg of grain, 116,110 soums, 7,701 kg of meat, and 7,473 kg of vegetables as aid.[17] During the month-long commemoration of Y. Okhunbobayev, through the efforts of the Sherabad residents, 204 heads of cattle, 20 horses, 29 cows, 11 chickens, 5 pigs, 399 houses, equipment, a lot of warm clothes and 114,004 soums in cash were collected and sent to the residents of the liberated districts[18].

The generous people of the Shorchi district, who joined the Sherabad movement, collected and delivered hundreds of dishes, notebooks and pens, various books, a gramophone, records, hundreds of pairs of socks and 100 pieces of outerwear. While grain seeds were planted on 100 hectares of land for the residents of the liberated districts in the district, the farmers of the Denov district sowed various food products on 67 hectares of land for the needs of the Yaroslavl residents liberated from the enemy[18].

The fact that our people are tolerant, hospitable, generous, compassionate and kind people was once again tested during the Second World War. The people of the oasis proved that they are faithful to the qualities of hospitality and kindness that have been preserved for centuries. In conclusion, in those years, when the war was at its worst, the workers of the oasis, despite the shortage of labor, food shortages and other difficulties of the war, used all their abilities to help the victims who fell into the hands of the enemy and actively participated in the restoration of those places. All the workers of the Surkhandarya region worked hard at the front during those war years. In addition to delivering large quantities of agricultural products to the liberated territories, they also provided material and moral support to the fighters who were fighting and dying with the enemy at the front. They actively participated in the work of ending the war with victory and strengthening the rear of the front.

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