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mness heroism

belief

hope

courage

plan included Kursk strategic defensive operation (5 - 23 July), Orel (12July - 18 August ) and the Belgorod-Kharkov (3 -23 August ) strategic offensive operations. The battle lasted 49 days. The German side called the offensive as " Citadel Operation."

As the result of the offensive plan "Kutuzov" Orel group of German troops was defeated and the occupied bridge-head was liquidated. As a result, the "Rumyantsev" operation ceased to exist Belgorod-Kharkov grouping of Germans and this important bridgehead was eliminated. A fundamental change in the course of the Great Patriotic War, which had begun at Stalingrad, was completed in the Battle of Kursk, and the Battle of the Dnieper. At Tehran conference initiated by Roosvelt his plane about breaking up Germany into five states was discussed.

After the completion of the battle strategic initiative finally went over to the Red Army, which continued to liberate the country from the German invaders, and up to the end of the war the Red Army carried out only offensive operations. Wehrmacht during the retreat from the territory of the Soviet Union pursued a policy of "scorched earth".

The 23d of August was the Day of Military Glory of Russia - Day of the defeat of Nazi troops by the Soviet Army in the Battle of Kursk (1943).

During the offensive of the Red Army and the subsequent counter-offensive of the Wehrmacht (in district of Kharkiv) in the center of the front, a protrusion formed to a depth of 150 km and a width of up to 200 km, which was directed to the west (the so-called "Kursk Bulge"). And that was the turning point in the course of the Great Patriotic War.

## KIROV – THE TOWN OF HOME FRONT

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This article has little to do with the soldiers and heroes of the front-line of WWII. It deals with the common people who stayed at their home fronts and worked

hard 24/7 for the sake of Great Victory of justice over the horrors and national discrimination that fascism brought to the people.

Kirov is situated in Central Russia closer to the Urals, 957 km far from Moscow. Kirov is one of the stations of The Trans-Siberian Railway and due to its convenient location it was easy to evacuate here people, factories and universities from other cities.

Vyatka region is famous for many talented commanders. Among them - the marshals Konstantin Andreevich Vershinin, Leonid Aleksandrovich Govorov, Ivan Stepanovich Konev; Generals Ivan Prokopyevich Alferov, Nikolay Aleksandrovich Naumov, Petr Tichonovich Michalitein. All of them were submitted nomination "Hero of the Soviet Union".

June 23, 1941 at the Square of Revolution Kirov a wide meeting was held, which was attended by 40 thousand of people. Several military groups were formed at the beginning of the war in the Kirov region They were: 311-th and 355-th Rifle Divisions, 109th Rifle Brigade and others.

The evacuation began October 11, 1941 echelons with equipment were sent from Moscow Yaroslavl, Kolomna, Leningrad. The city became a major military-industrial center and provided the Red Army with a large amount of military equipment, uniforms and food. On the voluntary funds of the citizens were built two armored trains, several tank columns and aircraft squadrons.

Near the main entrance to the LEPSE factory hung a battle map. It was changed almost every day and it inspired and encouraged workers and gave them hope for victory.

Kirovcitizens collected and sent to the Defence Fund more than 150 mln rubles. They bought and sent to the soldiers worm clothes, fur mittens and everything that was possible to find.