

Rzhevsky Memorial to the Soviet soldier

Memorial to the Soviet soldier, was erected at the site of fierce battles of 1942-1943. Bloody battles along the perimeter of Rzhev-Vyazemsky protrusion lasted 14 months. Here, from January 8, 1942 to March 31, 1943, about a million of Soviet soldiers was killed and hundreds of thousands were injured.

At the cost of enormous losses the offensive and defensive operations conducted by the Western and Kalinin front troops were of great strategic importance to achieve a fracture in favour of the Red Army on the entire Soviet-German front.



The idea that the magnificent monument dedicated to the heroes of the Rzhevsky battle was needed came from the veterans of the Great Patriotic War and was warmly supported by the Union State, the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation and the Russian Military Historical Society.

Work on the project began in advance. Immediately after the decision on the construction of the Memorial, in the summer of 2017, the Russian military-historical society announced a creative contest.

The 32 projects from Moscow, Belgorod, Bryansk, Irkutsk, Klin, Novosibirsk, Taldoma and the Republic of Belarus were submitted to the Art Council of the RVIO. In May 2018, a winner project was announced. His authors,

sculptor Andrei Korobtsov and architect Konstantin Fomin, worked under the general guidance of Andrei Konchalovsky.

The Memorial of the Soviet soldier was erected by Russian military-historical society with the support of the Union State, the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, the Government of the Tver Region and the Victory Museum. The monument was created on folk donations, its construction and the opening became one of the key activities of the Year of memory and glory in Russia.

A solemn opening ceremony of the Memorial to the Soviet soldier was held on June 30 th 2020. Presidents of Russia and Belarus Vladimir Putin and Alexander Lukashenko took part in the opening ceremony.

"Rzhevsky Memorial is another symbol of our common memory, a symbol of worship the great and selfless feat of a soldier-hero, a soldier-liberator, a soldier-winner , a soldier who saved Europe and the whole world from Nazism. This heroic deed should never be forgotten and faded, smeared by false and falsifications. We will not allow this ", said Vladimir Putin.



In the center of the memorial complex, a 25-meter figure of a soldier on a high hill is located near the M9 road. The names of the fallen soldiers are

immortalized on steel plates and in the multimedia exposition of the museum pavilion which is a branch of the Victory Museum.

The impression that the monument produces is really powerful. The soldier's bowed head is seen from afar. A 25-meter figure is installed on a ten meter bulk hill. Around the field, the federal route is nearby, you immediately remember the lines from the immortal poem of the Twardovsky "I was killed at Rzhev". You can see the suburbs of Rzhev far away. A lot of space around and only wind is blowing.

The soldier is looking thoughtfully at those people who came to see him. It seems that he is rereading the names of the fallen in the battle for Rzhev on the granite pylons surrounding the square. A quiet music is playing, grass on the hill is moving under the gusts of the wind. People involuntarily keep silence approaching the monument. This is a really majestic sight. The feeling of harsh power and fragility. The power, which allowed to withstand in the battles at Rzhev, and the fragility of each of the life of a million soldiers remaining here forever. The colossal figure of the soldier looks like flying over the ground.

The memory is alive, because "the soldiers lay not in the land but" turned into white cranes "

**An exhibit of the
exposition of
the military-historical
center
"Steps of Memory"**

