

## **LENINGRAD FOREST TECHNICAL ACADEMY DURING THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR**

“War” is a terrible word. War is the explosion of bombs, the roar of cannonades, the death of people, the destruction of cities. War brings grief to all people: both to those who start it, and to those who protect the Homeland. During the great Patriotic war, a large number of institutions suffered, Saint Petersburg Forestry Technical Academy (StPFTA) among them.

About 300 students, postgraduates, teachers and staff were mobilized to the Red Army on the first days of the war, and more than 400 people volunteered for the people's militia. A team of students and teachers participated in the construction of defensive structures around Leningrad. B. V. Butkov was involved in supplying the besieged city with fuel. He organized a printing workshop and wrote a number of pamphlets to help the people of Leningrad. The SPbFTA park housed the headquarters of the Baltic fleet air force and the air defense headquarters.

Senior students worked in the morning in workshops that produced various products for the front, and then listened to lectures. Junior students first went to the classrooms, and then took over the older students tasks at work. Since September, the Academy had been taking over the patronage of the military hospital: more than 100 students were sent there for permanent work, 37 of them finished nursing courses.

Employees of SPbFTA produced coniferous extracts and concentrates for hospitals from softwood species needles. Showing great physiological activity, they easily coped with the damage of the skin, organs and the entire human body protective functions.

V. I. Sharkov made a proposal to open workshops for the production of food pulp, as well as yeast from sawdust. Thanks to the rapid implementation of V. I. Sharkov's idea, it was possible to reduce a large number of deaths from starvation.

During the years of the blockade, enterprises produced 16,000 tons of food pulp. The total number of protein yeast produced is unknown. One of the problems of drug production was the close location of enterprises to the front line- from 2 to 3 kilometers. While the factory buildings themselves were well camouflaged, it was impossible to hide the smoke from the boiler pipes! The fascists hit the target "at the smoke"! On some days, up to 270 shells exploded on the territories of the workshops! Bread for the besieged city saved many lives. Another “misfortune“ was the depletion of gasoline reserves in the city. Most vehicles switched to gas-generating fuel. Cars worked on birch "chocks". A special production of these "chocks" was launched in the SPbFTA Park. The Academy did its best to do all which was possible, and

sometimes impossible, to overcome the difficulties which Leningrad faced as well as the front: the production of matchbooks and glued wooden soles was established.

Classes at the Academy were restored as early as August 12, 1943. students were fed free and unlimited at the Academy. Specially for them professor V. I. Sharkov developed cakes recipe. They smelled of wood. These cakes had valuable properties, they saved from beriberi, as well as from rickets.

Saint Petersburg is a city of palaces, rivers, canals, and bridges; but it can be rightfully called a city of parks, gardens, and squares. A unique Museum of landscape art was created here, which presents unique works of Russian landscape architecture. The war caused severe damage to the green decoration of the city: more than 100 thousand trees and 800 thousand shrubs perished. The Park of the Forestry Academy was also damaged. It used to be one of the most picturesque places in St. Petersburg. During the war it resembled, rather, a battlefield. In the autumn of 1941, when the Nazis were rushing to Leningrad, military construction began in the Park – the Park was part of the city's internal defense system in case the enemy broke through. In the spring of 1943, bunkers of the reserve Headquarters of the Leningrad front were erected in the Park. A. A. Grabovskaya, using a special pass issued by the commander of the Leningrad front, controlled this construction, ensuring the preservation of the most important objects. The Germans bombed it particularly hard, but in spite of the mass attacks, many plants were saved. Wonderful flowers grown in the Botanical garden, gave strength to the patients lying in the hospital. This luxury in wartime was a symbol of hope for people, an outlet and a belief that everything would end with a victory! After the war, the Park needed restoration - it took decades to restore the green spaces. Now more than 1000 species of plants grow on the territory of the Park. The great Patriotic war showed that the spirit of the Russian people is unbreakable. Leningrad residents did everything possible to preserve their gardens and parks.

The events of the blockade time are clearly highlighted on the territory of our university. There is an explosion crater on the territory of the Park. Judging by the size of it, it was the explosion of the largest German high-explosive aerial bomb.

War! How much pain and horror this word brings... Millions of lives it took away and brought to humanity a lot of grief, tears, suffering. About seventy-five years have passed since the end of the Great Patriotic war. However, the people's memory preserves forever the memories of those who gave their lives for the Motherland, for the happiness of future generations.

In conclusion, I would like to say that the Forest Technical University made a huge contribution during the great Patriotic war.