

LENINGRAD FOREST TECHNICAL ACADEMY DURING THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR

War is a terrible word. This concept is associated with horror, fear, explosions, fire, and noise. So was the Great Patriotic War. It took away many people, and lots were physically wounded and mentally crippled. The war even left its mark on the future, because many of our relatives died or took part in it. And what would happen if it weren't? Now there are very few veterans left, and there are also not many children of war. The most important thing that the war touched was children. Many of them became more mature than adults in their immature years. The war life was the most difficult period for children, for it turned upside down their psyche and worldview. By children I mean people from 0 to 18 years old. The war spared neither adults nor children.

Our University was founded in 1803, so the war affected the lives of its teachers and students. At that time, students like me lived peacefully and studied. Suddenly, at the time of the spring session, the announcement of the beginning of the war was made. According to data, 300 people from the University were mobilized to the Red army, 400 were volunteers, and many built defensive structures during the Siege of Leningrad. Even now, I'm afraid to imagine how their fate changed in an instant if to consider that it was not civilians who started the war. Just imagine the grief of the mothers who lost their sons, did the mother want this? But the point is that we forget the exploits of our ancestors, although everyone owes his or her life to them. This must not be forgotten! Now, we are studying in the second building, and from September 10, 1941 it was a hospital, later it was a military facility. And the Park where we walk, there were defensive lines there. No one knew that the war would drag on, everyone hoped for an early end, so they were already preparing for the beginning of the school year, but this did not happen. When we say that we are tired, it does not occur to us that in the wartime LTA students listened to lectures in the morning, and in the evening, at night, they produced guns for the front. They worked and studied under fire. Also, employees of the University produced 27 types of weapons. Because of its diverse specialization the University scientists solved many problems during the war. At the same time, people gave their lives for rare collections of plants and trees in our Park and arboretum, as they had been collected by more than one generation. If there are quite a lot of us now, in August 1943 only 58 students were being trained. This number would have made 2 groups of our present Institute. The war took away many students and teachers. Some documents

about the University were lost and some rare plants were wiped off the face of the Earth. What the wartime students and teachers were able to save we must protect. We must also help those who survived. Did they want to die? They are Heroes who defended their Homeland with their valuable lives, Heroes who gave us life and passed on the knowledge about the past. Those Heroes did not and do not want the war to happen again. And we must remember them as we remember our mothers, and we must know about their deeds, because without them there would not be us.

Many of these heroes worked in our university or were its graduates.

Malyukov M.F. was the head of the Academy during the Great Patriotic War. It was a huge responsibility to manage the entire huge complex of the oldest forestry academy in Russia. Already on June 23, an order was issued on the imposition of martial law. Until June 26, air defense was activated, a range of blackout activities was carried out, shelters were prepared, a pass system was introduced, and round-the-clock patrolling was organized. 33 employees, as “valuable personnel” (doctors, professors), were sent on “long trips” long before the mass evacuation.

Anna Alekseevna Grabovskaya graduated from the Forestry Engineering Academy. She was appointed as head of landscape gardening. With a small child in her arms, she ran one of the most important academy units. Her husband was fighting on the Leningrad Front. In her department there was a park, a botanical garden, greenhouses, nurseries. She controlled the military construction in the park, trying to preserve the most important facilities. After the first siege of winter, it was decided to organize gardens on the university territory. Anna Alekseevna took part in it. After the war she was responsible for the restoration activities.

LTA professor Fedor Timofeevich Solodky is the founder of forest biochemistry. He offered his recipe for soap from wood waste without the use of soda, which the partisans successfully used during the war. On the territory of LTA, in one of the workshops under the leadership of Fedor Timofeevich, production of vitamin C and keratin concentrates began (treatment of scurvy, burns, frostbite, vitamin deficiency, dystrophy). Also F.T.Solodky created chloroform (an anesthetic) based on wood waste. Needles were harvested at the Okhta Forestry. Water for production was extracted from wells, because the water supply did not work.

LTA professor Vasily Ivanovich Sharkov proposed using food cellulose (from wood waste) as an additive to bread and organizing workshops for the production of protein yeast from non-food sugar. Due to his initiative, workshops were opened for the production of food cellulose and protein yeast. His discovery saved many lives in the besieged city.

Nikolai Osipovich Sokolov, Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Forestry, was a promising scientist and father of two children. He went to the front as a volunteer. Despite the lack of a special military education, he soon became a first-class specialist in this dangerous business. After being wounded, he was invalided out of the army and returned to the besieged city with his family.

Alexander Vasilyevich Belyakov studied at the Forestry Institute twice; he trained pilots, navigators, radio operators and air gunners throughout the War. He participated in the Berlin operation.

Boris Vasilievich Poor in 1941 graduated from the Forest Institute. He was called up to the army. During one of the battles he was wounded, captured, and was taken prisoner in Germany. But luckily he was liberated. After the war he devoted himself to literary activity.

One day we visited one of the museums of the University, where there was the exhibition dedicated to the great Patriotic war. The first thing we were introduced to was an old diploma of higher education. There were more than 25 of them. Diploma for the modern generation is a piece of cardboard that can help in life. I myself received such a certificate after the 9th and 11th grades. After entering the Forestry University, it struck me that, if the 11th grade certificate was necessary for the admission, then for what purpose I received one after the 9th grade. Most likely for memory. But those diplomas were not simple, although they looked like ordinary blue ones with the USSR coat of arms engraved on them. What did they mean? I cannot say for sure. The diplomas demonstrated different results and achievements: excellent, good and satisfactory. Just like what we can see these days. But there was one thing which differed: they still were there. This means that no one took them, neither students, nor their relatives. They belonged to those who died for their Country, and this is not a paper with marks and grades. It was a certificate of the life of a young girl or a young boy who studied here and dreamed about the future, but the war cruelly treated them. There were also a lot of papers, reports and magazines. I read the names opposite which there were entries – I went to the front, in Leningrad, then I do not remember. The number of those who went to the front struck me. They threw everything to defend the country, but they defended not only the country, they were defending their land, family. They sacrificed their lives and future and gave them to us. Today I watched the news I and learned about the 92 years old veteran. He recovered from the coronavirus. And again he was fighting and again he won. And a thought came across my mind: "This is a Man, this is a Hero".