

The Siege of Leningrad

The main information

- Less than two and a half months after June 22, 1941, when the Soviet Union was attacked by Nazi Germany, German troops were already approaching Leningrad. The Red Army was outflanked and on September 8, 1941 the Germans had fully encircled Leningrad and the Siege began. It lasted for about 900 days, from September 8, 1941 till January 27, 1944.
- In January 1943 the Siege was broken and a year later, on January 27, 1944 it was fully lifted. At least 641 thousand people had died in Leningrad during the Siege.



Life in during the Siege

- By the winter of 1941-42 there was no heating, no water supply, almost no electricity and very little food (the lowest food ratios were 125 grams of bread per day). In January and February, 1942, 200 thousand people died in Leningrad of cold and starvation.
- Meanwhile, the city lived on. Most students continued their studies and even passed finals. Dmitry Shostakovich wrote his Seventh "Leningrad" Symphony and it was performed in the besieged city.



The Road of Life

- The Road of Life was the ice road transport route across the frozen Lake Ladoga, which provided the only access to the besieged city of Leningrad in the winter months during 1941–1944.
- The Road of Life began to operate on *20 November 1941* when the first convoy of horse-drawn sleighs brought supplies to the city. Shortly thereafter, the ice road began receiving truck traffic. Over the Road of Life, supplies could be brought into the city, and civilians were evacuated to the opposite coast.
- About 514,000 city inhabitants, 35,000 wounded soldiers, industrial equipment from 86 plants and factories, and also some art and museum collections were evacuated from Leningrad during the first winter of the blockade.



After the Siege

- In the summer, with the start of the navigable period, deliveries to the city continued thanks to the Ladoga Military Flotilla. In 1943 the Road of Life was replaced by the Road of Victory – a railway, laid on the narrow path beaten out by German troops from Leningrad to Volkhov.



Monuments and memorials

- In total there are seven monuments along the Road of Life, 46 memorial poles along the road, and 56 memorial poles along the railway. All of these are part of the Green Belt of Glory.



The Broken Circle, a monument to the Siege of Leningrad on the Road of Life



Marker noting the 17th kilometer along the Road