



HENSON HERALD SEPTEMBER EDITION

A warm welcome to you all.

We are now into our sixth month of our enforced lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic and we hope that you're all keeping well and healthy. The government-proposed relaxing of criteria in regards of lockdown continues cautiously, with children returning to schools around the country near the end of August and into September. There are still fears of a second surge of infections however, so a cautious approach seems to be for the best.

It has been 75 years since the end of World War 2, known as the Great Patriotic War in Russia, and to mark the occasion in May there was a Victory Day Parade in Moscow. Our friend, Luba Malutina, hailing from Moscow, gives her account of Russia's special day.

We also include an Interesting Facts page which you may find both interesting and humorous, a Lightning Chess page and we have a recipe for blueberry scones—ideal for those sunny afternoon tea days.

#Please note that the views expressed by Luba's writings are not wholly the views endorsed by Henson Editorial Services#

"I am enough of an artist to draw freely upon my imagination. Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world."

– Albert Einstein



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Victory Day in Russia



The first parade in Moscow to celebrate the defeat of the Nazis in the Second World War took place on 24 June 1945, about two months after Germany's unconditional surrender was signed near Berlin. It was the renowned military commander Georgy Zhukov rather than then Soviet leader and Commander-in-Chief Joseph Stalin who inspected the 1945 parade which was commanded by another prominent Soviet military commander Konstantin Rokossovsky. The combined regiments of the fronts marched solemnly in the parade: the Karelian front, the Leningrad front, the 1st Baltic front, the 3^d, the 2nd and the 1st Byelorussian fronts, the 1st, the 4th, the 2nd and the 3rd Ukrainian fronts. Ahead of the consolidated regiments of the front were the commanders of the front and of the

armies. The Heroes of the Soviet Union carried the banners of the famous units and formations. The parade ended with a march of 200 standard bearers who carried German standards in gloves and threw them at the foot of Lenin Mausoleum.

The parade on 24 June this year was of symbolic meaning given that the very first parade dedicated to the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II was held in Moscow on 24 June 1945.

Interesting fact: the countries of the allied coalition – the USA, Great Britain, France, Canada and Australia – officially celebrate Victory Day on 8 May but in Russia it is celebrated on 9 May. Why? Marshal G. Zhukov received the general surrender from the representatives of all types of troops of the defeated Germany on 8 May 1945 at 23:43 when it was already 9 May in Moscow. On 9 May 1945 a Soviet aircraft landed on Frunze Central Airfield and delivered to Moscow the Act of Capitulation of Nazi Germany.

Usually the parade in Red Square takes place on 9 May but this year, the Victory Parade in Moscow was postponed to a later date, the 24th June, due to the national lockdown created by the coronavirus pandemic.

The Victory Day has always been and remains one of the most revered holidays in Russia. On this day flower and wreath laying ceremonies are held everywhere at the monuments to the heroes of the Great Patriotic War (as it is called in Russia). Various events are held to honour war veterans and home front workers. Each year since 1945 Red Square holds the biggest military parade in this country with live broadcasting. Quite often international leaders are invited to enjoy this show.

Festive concerts, lessons of courage in schools, reconstruction of battles, military parades and fireworks are organized. This year many veterans had their very own “personal parades” being organized at their homes by soldiers of local military units.

The tradition of recent years is the holding of the civil patriotic action “Immortal Regiment” march which today has become an international public movement to preserve the personal memory of the generation of the Second World War. On Victory Day participants of the movement walk through the streets of towns and cities with photos of their relatives – veterans of the army and navy, partisans, underground fighters, home front workers, concentration camp prisoners, victims of the siege of Leningrad (1941-1944), children of the War (born shortly before or during the war). They also share their family stories in the People’s Chronicle on the site of the movement “Immortal Regiment”. Until now there is not a single person in Russia whose parents or grand-parents or great-grandparents did not suffer or die in that war.

I can tell you about my grandparents. My grandfather Konstantin Skripitsin was called up for military service on 22 July 1941 as a Private, when he was 32 years old and promptly sent to the Battlefield. He became a machine-gunner. I remember him telling me how they were sitting in trenches on the outskirts of Leningrad. He participated in the defence of Leningrad for which he was awarded a medal. He was wounded three times but returned to the Front again after treatment in hospital. He served at different fronts. Konstantin was demobilized in 1945 after the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR dated 25.9.1945 was issued. At the end of the war my grandfather was awarded a medal “For the Victory over Germany in the Great Patriotic War 1941-1945”.

My grandmother Elizabeth Skripitsina was a home-front worker. She was a nurse but she was not sent to the front because she had two small children. She worked as a nurse at a textile factory that produced cotton material necessary for the front needs. The factory was running round the clock and there were three shifts. At the end of the war my grandmother was awarded a medal “For the Valorous Labour during the Great Patriotic War 1941-1945”.

Despite the fact that this country has lost almost 11 million soldiers and almost 18 million civilians during World War II, in Russia on 9 May they celebrate it as the Great Holiday with tears in their eyes.

In Russia one of the symbols of Victory Day is St. George’s Ribbon. Young activists hand out such ribbons on the eve of the holiday to everyone. St. George Order on a yellow and black ribbon which symbolizes smoke and fire is awarded for service and courage. St. George’s Ribbon symbolizes the memory of younger generations of the feat of their ancestors in the Great Patriotic War.

- *Luba Malutina*

Lightning Chess

The concept of 'lightning' or 'blitz' chess may to some be strange. Indeed a professional tournament game may well last for six hours, all played in one session nowadays. However the advent of COVID 19 has led to a great increase in on-line chess, and many of the very best players in the world have taken part in tournaments.

One of the difficulties with serious on-line chess is that the availability of powerful computers has made cheating easy. One way towards avoiding this is to play games where each player has, for example, 15 minutes for the whole game plus an 'increment' of 10 seconds per move. Clocks on modern computers make this quite feasible, and an all-play-all tournament of 10 players can be completed in two days if necessary. A recent such competition was won by the world champion, Magnus Carlsen.

The best known over-the-board lightning tournament took place in Belgrade in 1970. Twenty players from the Soviet Union and the 'Rest of the World' had assembled for a four round match, eventually won by the Soviet Union by one point. Beforehand twelve players agreed to take part in a blitz tournament in which each player had only 5 minutes for the whole game! It was not possible to record the moves of all the games, but here are the two between the first and second prize-winners, both world champions, Bobby Fischer (1972-75) and Mikhail Tal (1960-61).

Tal vs Fischer

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. Nc3 e5 4. Bc4 Be7 5. d3 Nf6 6. O-O Nc6 7. Ne1 O-O 8. f4 a6 9. a4 exf4
10. Bxf4 Be6 11. Bxe6 fxe6 12. Bg3 Qb6
13. Qd2 Ng4 14. Nf3 Nd4 15. Rab1 Nxf3+ 16. gxf3 Ne5 17. Kg2 Ng6 18. Ne2 Nh4+ 19
Bxh4 Bxh4 20. b4 Qc7 21. bxc dxc 22. a5 Rf6
23. f4 Raf8 24. Rb6 Bg5 25. e5 Rf5 26. Rxe6 Qf7 27. Rd6 Bxf4 28. Rxf4 Rxf4 29. Nxf4
Qxf4+ 30 Qxf4 Rxf4 31. Rd7 Ra4 32. e6 Kf8
33. Rf7+ Ke8 34. Rxc7 Rxa5 35. Rxb7 Ra2 36. Kf3 Rxc2 37 Rxh7 c4
38. d4 c3 39. d5 Rd2 40. Ke4 c2 41. Rc7 Kd8 42. Rc4 a5 43. h4 a4
44. Ke5 a3 45. d6 Re2+ 46. Kf5 Rf2+ 47. Kg4 a2 48 d7? Ke7 49. Rc8 Rd2 50. Re8+ Kf6 51
e7 Rd7 0-1

Fischer vs Tal

1. g3 g6 2. Bg2 Bg7 3. Nf3 c5 4. c3 Nf6 5. O-O O-O 6. d4 d6
7. dxc dxc 8. Qxd8 Rxd8 9. Be3 Na6 10. Na3 Nd5 11. Rfd1 Bg4
12. Bd2 h6 13. h3 Be6 14. Nb5 Ndc7 15. a4 Bb3 16. Rdc1 Nxb5
17. axb Nc7 18. Be3 Nxb5 19. Bxc5 b6 20. Bxe7 Re8 21. Ba3 Rad8
22. e3 a5 23. Nd4 Nxa3 24. Rxa3 Bc4 25. Bf1 Bd5 26. Bg2 Bc4 27. Ra4 Bd3 28. b4 axb 29.
Rxb4 Rd6 30. Rd1 Bc2 31. Rd2 Bf5 32. Rdb2 Rc8
33 Rxb6 Rxb6 34. Rxb6 Rxc3 35. Nxf5 gxf 36. Bd5 Rc7 37. Rb5 Re7
38. Bc4 Re5 39. Rb7 Kh7 40. Rxf7 Kg6 41. Rc7 Bf8 42. Rc6+ Kg7
43. Bd3 Be7 44. Bc2 Ra5 45 Kg2 and Black resigned later (1-0)

John Knee

“Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.”

– Winston S. Churchill

Interesting Facts

1. In the 1400s a law was set forth in England that a man was allowed to beat his wife with a stick no thicker than his thumb.

Hence we have 'the rule of thumb.'

2. Many years ago in Scotland , a new game was invented. It was ruled 'Gentlemen Only... Ladies Forbidden' ... and thus the word *GOLF* entered into the English language.

3. Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history:

Spades - King David,

Hearts - Charlemagne,

Clubs -Alexander the Great,

Diamonds - Julius Caesar

4. In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase..... 'goodnight, sleep tight.'

5. It was the accepted practice in Babylon 4,000 years ago that for a month after the wedding, the bride's father would supply his son-in-law with all the mead he could drink.

Mead is a honey beer and because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the honey month, which we know today as the honeymoon.

6. In English pubs, ale is ordered by pints and quarts...

So in old England , when customers got unruly, the bartender would yell at them 'Mind your pints and quarts, and settle down.'

It's where we get the phrase 'mind your P's and Q's'

7. Many years ago in England, pub frequenters had a whistle baked into the rim or handle of their ceramic cups. When they needed a refill, they used the whistle to get some service.

'Wet your whistle' is the phrase inspired by this practice.

8. In 1696, William III of England introduced a property tax that required those living in houses with more than six windows to pay a levy. In order to avoid the tax, house owners would brick up all windows except six. (The Window Tax lasted until 1851, and older houses with bricked-up windows are still a common sight in the U.K.) As the bricked-up windows prevented some rooms from receiving any sunlight, the tax was referred to as "daylight robbery"!

Now, there you have the origin of these phrases.

Interesting isn't it!!

Blueberry Scones Recipe

It seems we've been enjoying scones for our afternoon tea for centuries, yet, it seems that scones originated from Hungary, although as to when, even roughly, is unknown. There are many recipes online to be found with varying ingredients and supermarkets seem to sell the most popular— plain, sultanas, cherry and cheese, made fresh most days. But you can't beat a fresh homemade scone, still warm from the oven and served with butter or jam with clotted cream! This is a special one that I found, where blueberries are growing in popularity over in this country, but feel free to alter some of the ingredients as to your preference.

Ingredients

115g butter
65g caster sugar (or 4/5 teaspoons honey)
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/4 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
1 egg, beaten
250g plain flour (maybe even self-raising)
115g soured cream (or milk)
a handful of fresh blueberries
For glazing
1 egg, beaten
granulated sugar for sprinkling

Prep:25min › Cook:15min › Ready in:40min

Preheat oven to 200 C / Gas 6.

Lightly grease or line a baking tray with baking paper.

In a large bowl, beat the butter and sugar together with a wooden spoon. Add salt, baking powder, bicarbonate of soda and beaten egg; mix well.

Add half of the flour and half of the soured cream, mix again. Add the remaining flour and soured cream and mix until a dough is formed. The dough will be a bit wet. Stir in blueberries.

Divide the dough into 9 scones and place on the prepared baking tray. Brush the scones with beaten egg and sprinkle with sugar.

Bake the scones in preheated oven for 15 to 17 minutes or until golden brown on top and cooked through.

Let the scones cool for 2 minutes on the baking tray, then transfer them to a wire rack. Serve warm and enjoy!

The Second World War in Russia

This year 2020 we are celebrating 75th anniversary of Victory in the Second World War. The war of liberation of the Soviet people against the German Fascist invaders, which is known in Russia as the Great Patriotic War (1941-1945). It has become a glorious but at the same time the most dreadful page in the history of our country. During four years it took away the lives of more than 30 million people. Around 1,700 towns were bombed and destroyed, more than 70 thousand villages were burnt down, and about 25 million people became homeless. There is hardly any family in Russia which had not been affected.

At 4 am on 22 June 1941, the German army invaded the territory of the USSR after a massive preparatory bombardment. My grandmother remembered that when it was announced at midday on 22 June through the loudspeakers that Germany had invaded both our country and territories without any declaration of war. Everyone broke down and cried.

The suddenness of the invasion took the frontier troops of the Red Army totally by surprise. A considerable part of the armoured forces and ammunition, together with fuel were destroyed or captured on the first day of the war. About 1,200 Soviet airplanes were put out of action before taking off from their runways.

Hitler had been pondering the invasion of the USSR in 1925 and the plan was put into operation in July 1940. It was then that they transferred German troops from the Western Europe to the East.

The preparation of the Germans for the war with the Soviet Union was thoroughly cloaked. Germany continued an active cooperation with the USSR at the diplomatic level. In 1939 a Non-Aggression Pact had been signed by Molotov and Ribbentrop. Stalin was adamant that Hitler would not risk attacking the USSR before he finished the war with the United Kingdom.

However, the failure of the Germans in their Battle for Britain just delayed the beginning of their invasion in the East. Hitler tried to avoid the war on two fronts. Thus, the oncoming winter made him give up the idea of invasion of the USSR in 1940. But the development of the operation continued. The Germans expected to finish the Russian campaign in five months before the next winter started.

The offensive of the German troops from 22 June 1941 was assumed in three directions: to Moscow, to Kiev and to Leningrad. The length of the front was about 3,000 km.

As it was planned, the Germans delivered the main blow in the Western Byelorussia (Belarus). The defence of Brest became one of the first battles. At 4 am on 22 June the German field-guns started to bombard the Brest fortress. More than 7,000 shells of different calibre were rained down on the Brest fortress. The garrison of the fortress was made up of no less than 7,000 servicemen. The sudden attack took them unawares. As a result of the shelling, communication was disrupted, the warehouses with ammunition and the water-pipes were destroyed and a considerable part of the fortifications collapsed.

Separate seats of resistance were put up, headed by major Peter Gavrilov, captain Ivan Zubachiov, lieutenant Andrei Kizhevatorov and regiment commissar Efim Fomin. The fierce fighting continued until the beginning of August when the last seats of resistance were suppressed by the Germans. During the defence of Brest fortress 1,877 Soviet servicemen were killed, the rest were taken prisoners. Only a few managed to survive. The Germans lost 1,110 soldiers and 87 officers. One of the German divisions – the 45th infantry division – was detained for more than one month.

Meanwhile the German offensive continued. On 10 July the motorized corps of the German group of army's "Centre" having overcome the Soviet line of defence between Vitebsk and Orsha reached the town of Smolensk. Here they suddenly ran into the armed forces of the rehabilitated Western Front. A mighty Smolensk battle started. The men of the Red Army managed to delay the advance of the Germans in the direction of Moscow for two months at the cost of great losses. About 700 thousand of Soviet soldiers were killed or wounded during the bloody fighting at Smolensk. The Smolensk defence operation of the Soviet troops became an important stage in the disruption of the German blitzkrieg. The German armed forces of the group of armies "Centre" became so emaciated that they were not enough to continue the advance.

At the end of July 1941 Hitler took a decision to temporarily stop the offensive in the direction of Moscow. The tank sub-units were redirected to other areas of Soviet-German front – in the direction of Kiev and Leningrad.

- *Luba Malutina*

"Books must be treated with respect, we feel that in our bones, because words have power. Bring enough words together they can bend space and time."

– *Terry Pratchett*

We conclude with a small excerpt from a recording of a Spanish Canzon to be enacted by the Winchester Choir called Di Perra Mora.

Di Perra Mora

Please enjoy and remain good, healthy and happy!

Zoom/Online meetings

Every Thursday at 2pm

To register your interest for an invite in attending the events, please email : enquiries@hensoneditorial.com or gary@hensoneditorialservices.co.uk

We look forward to greeting you all there!

“Stories never really end...even if the books like to pretend they do. Stories always go on. They don't end on the last page, any more than they begin on the first page.”

— Cornelia Funke,

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