

Do Kazakhstan people really need it?

I met mentions about the 100th separate rifle brigade for the first time in my life, while studying history of combat operations of the 22nd and 39th armies of the Kalinisky front's units in the Oleninsk land, particularly infamous operation "Mars".

National composition of the brigade at the moment of its formation was as follows: 86% of Kazakhs, 11% of Russians, and 3% of Ukrainians, Belorussians and other nationalities.

At large, operation "Mars" was not successful for our troops, as it failed to solve set goals, but at the same time it was one of the bloodiest operations of the war – average daily casualties amounted to 8296, including killed, wounded and missing soldiers.

By December 3rd, only 1994 men out of 4751 had left in the ranks of the 100th brigade. The brigade's casualties made 820 soldiers; they were either killed or reported missing.

For bravery and heroism displayed in battles in the Molodoy Tud environs, 34 soldiers of the 100th brigade were awarded orders and medals.

All localities which the 100th rifle brigade fought for have been marked on a military map. Same titles are written in the "location of burial" column in the lists of irretrievable losses. It is doubtless that currently, remains of Kazakhstani soldiers repose in the common grave of the village Molodoy Tud. Still, the lists of soldiers, buried in common graves in the post-war years, lack names of more than 50% of the deceased, and warriors from the 100th brigade have not been mentioned there at all.

Lists of irretrievable losses were handed to Central state archive of the Republic of Kazakhstan through Colonel Kaken Abenov, veteran of the 101st separate rifle brigade. The lists have been thoroughly checked by specialists and together with the lists of deceased warriors of the 101th rifle brigade they were published in K.Abenov's book "Operation "Mars" in 2010.

To this day, almost all facts about the 100th Kazakhstan national rifle brigade are known and published, but there remains an important and unsolved issue, i.e. immortalizing warriors of the brigade in place of their death.

Officially and with all prescribed formalities, lists of the 100th brigade's deceased warriors have been registered in the lists of common grave in the village Molodoy Tud; hence, reconstruction of the grave itself and fabrication of memorial slabs with the names of Kazakhstan soldiers, is required. The only question is whether Kazakhstan people need it at all and whether they are going to take part in the process or not?

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