



**Siege of Leningrad
Road of life
(12 September, 1941**

March, 1943)

1941-1945

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The Road of Life

- The "road of life" was the only transport route through lake Ladoga during the great Patriotic war. During periods of navigation on the water, in winter on the ice. It connected the besieged Leningrad with the country from September 12, 1941 to March 1943.
- At first, roads and Railways were cut off. And on September 8, 1941, after the capture of Shlisselburg, the history of the besieged Leningrad began – one of the most tragic in the great Patriotic war. The only communication with the outside world for the Leningraders remained only the road that began on the shore of lake Ladoga.



The road of life through lake Ladoga

- When the blockade ring closed, the only way to communicate with the besieged Leningrad remained-through lake Ladoga, the coast of which the Soviet army continued to control during the great Patriotic war. This lake was very difficult for navigation.



How the Road of life was paved

- At the first, it was clear that the shipping route was a temporary measure. It would be cold soon. Therefore, employees of the Hydrological Institute and the road Department of the Leningrad front began to design a road that was to be laid directly on the ice of the frozen lake Ladoga.
- The length across Ladoga was approximately 30 kilometers. In this relatively small area, tens of thousands of people worked together in difficult conditions. These were truck drivers and drivers of horse-drawn carts, mechanics who repaired cars, traffic controllers whose task was to guide drivers along the safest routes. In addition, there were those who directly paved the road.



The route to Leningrad

- The situation in the city was well known to the drivers of cars that delivered dozens of tons of various goods to the banks of the Ladoga river in the Leningrad blockade and picked up evacuees from there. They risked their lives every minute, going out on the ice of lake Ladoga. And these are not just big words. Only for one day on November 29, 1941, 52 cars went under the water. And this is on a stretch of 30 kilometers long! So no one closed the car doors. So there was a chance to get out of the sinking car.

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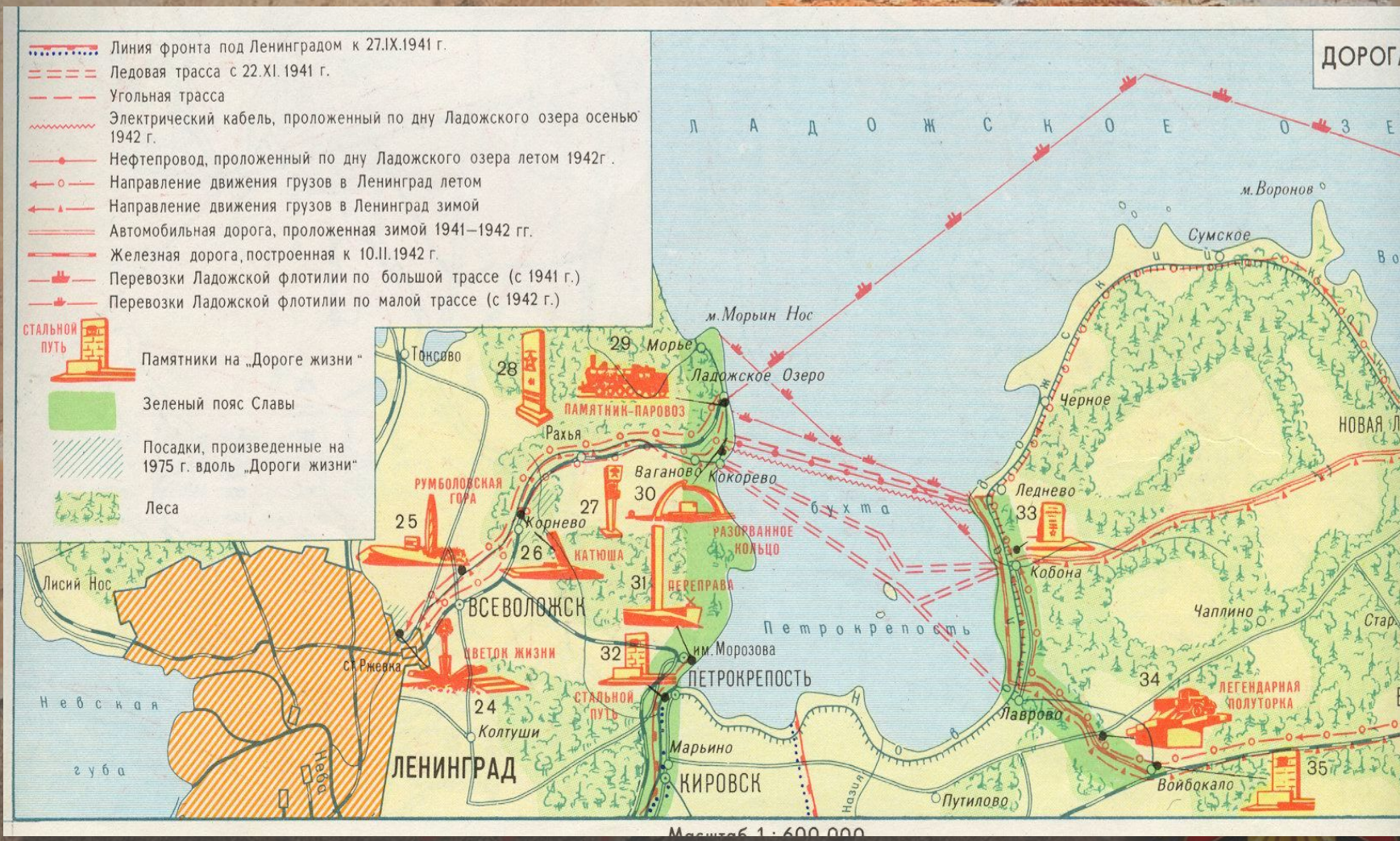


The siege winter

- Of all the Leningraders had to endure three winters of the siege. Although the ice road worked best at this time, and it could deliver a considerable number of tons of cargo, it was the winter of the blockade that was the most difficult time for Leningrad residents. After all, cold was added to the acute problem of malnutrition.
- During the first winter – from December 1941 to February 1942 – a quarter of a million people died in Leningrad.
- There was another way, which was called the little road of life. It passed over the surface of the Gulf of Finland. This way the defenders got to the defended "patch". It also sent back numerous soldiers wounded in battle.



The Map of the road of life



Monuments



Thanks for watching!

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