

This essay deals with Operation “Zvezdochka,” which was carried out by Alexander Petrovich Mamkin. I decided to write about his feat because it struck me and “took me by the soul” more than all the others. Additionally, a street named in honor of this person is located next to my street, and many of my friends live on it.

It all started with the Red Army soldier Mikhail Forinko, who, under pressure, was able to persuade the German authorities to build an orphanage. However, beneath their “kindness” lay a terrible plan: the German soldiers needed donor blood.

Over time, the director of the orphanage was ordered to prepare a list of all the children in the orphanage along with their health conditions to begin this literally bloody plan. The children were fortunate - Forinko devised a plan to save them by transferring them to the partisan zone. Thus, the children were saved the first time.

The second time was not long in coming. The Germans declared a blockade, and the decision was made to launch Operation “Zvezdochka.” A letter was sent from the partisan zone, where the children from the orphanage lived, requesting planes for their rescue. The response letter arrived immediately: “Prepare the landing strip.” There were only two small planes and two pilots, so pilots Alexander Mamkin and Dmitry Kuznetsov needed to make several pre-flights. Everything was going well, but on Mamkin’s penultimate flight, the plane’s engine was pierced by a series of enemy bullets. Fire instantly engulfed the cockpit, and everything burst into flames. The pilot's clothes caught fire, and he was burning alive, but he still managed to endure and land the plane. It is worth noting that Mamkin had a parachute, but he made a courageous choice to stay with the aircraft. During this operation, all the people survived, but our country lost a brave pilot—Alexander Mamkin. Thus ended one of the most famous operations of the Great Patriotic War, which is written about in history textbooks, featured in documentaries, and praised.

In conclusion, I want to say that such amazing feats should not be forgotten by the people. We must maintain the peace that was achieved at the cost of millions of human lives. Recently, I heard a phrase that fits perfectly here, in my opinion: “They liberated us so that we could preserve it.”