

Väinö Mononen

THE LOST RUSSIAN SKI BRIGADE

A hard fate in the Finnish Winter War

ARKANGELISSA
VUONNA 1939
PERUSTETUN 9.
HIIHTOPATALJOONAN
SOTILAIEN MUISTOLLE.

ПАМЯТИ СОЛДАТ
9 ОТДЕЛЬНОГО
ЛЫЖНОГО БАТАЛЬОНА,
ФОРМИРОВАННОГО В ГОРОДЕ
АРХАНГЕЛЬСКЕ В 1939 ГОДУ.

ТАССА
СОДРУЖ.
В. В. В.

THE LOST RUSSIAN SKI BRIGADE

A hard fate in the Finnish Winter War

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Initial words about the content over time, the harsh battles of Kuhmo have been badly overshadowed by the battles of Suomussalmi, even though the Finnish losses in Kuhmo were double. The superiority of the Soviet forces was completely overwhelming. It already looked like the red flag would fly over Kainuu soon. But it turned out differently.

The massive Red Army had been stopped after all. The 9th Division, commanded by colonel Hjalmar Siilasvuo, got its lines in order, and set up for resistance. The division stopped and tied up the attacking enemy forces on their route of entry.

The first part of the work is mainly limited to Lake Saunajärvi, a description of the decisive effect of the large-scale attack of the Finnish troops on the entire war, which turned the general appearance of the battles into that of a motley and guerilla warfare. When the actual movement of the Red Army on the main roads became difficult and finally stopped completely, the Soviet troops persistently pushed forward outside the roads.

So, the Red Army was forced to bring ski troops to help their own troops. The enemy moved to the terrain and began to use more and more of his ski troops, for which the Finns' vital headquarters and maintenance connections were desired targets. The ski troops sent by the enemy caused quite a lot of problems for the Finns, in addition to the infantry of the field army attacking along the road, the powerful artillery and the superior air force.

The ski troops created a lot of extra headaches, especially in the headquarters, command posts and rear maintenance connections. Weeding them out took a lot of time and tied up a lot of men in verification and tracking tasks.

The most dramatic event was the fate of the Russian colonel Dolin's Ski Brigade in the battles of the Kuhmo winter war.

The disappearance of a brigade without a trace in a few days is still a delicate matter on both sides of the border. This is especially true on the east side of the border, where several research and excavation teams have been sent after the ski troops in recent years.

The stories told about the stages of the ski brigade have, in the course of time, taken on the characteristics of folktales in people's speeches and guesses. Regardless of that, or maybe that's why I've gathered different points of view about a mystical series of events that is unparalleled in the entire winter war.

Special thanks for the unforgettable cooperation to Mauno Immonen from Nurmes, who, along with the undersigned, has also studied the faded traces of past winters for years in this truly special struggle, where there was certainly no shortage of goals.

The work is dedicated to the Dolin Ski Brigade and to the memory of the most special raven battle of the winter war, in Kuhmo.

In Eno, Finland, November 30, 2023, Väinö Mononen



MKT, nonfiction writer Väinö Mononen

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The work talks about a special operation in the Finnish Winter War in early 1940 and the harshness of winter warfare in Kuhmo in extremely demanding wilderness conditions.

The superiority of the Red Army was overwhelming, and it already looked like they would make a breakthrough. But it turned out differently.

Colonel Siilasvuo's 9th Division got its lines in order and positioned itself for resistance. The division stopped and tied up the attacking enemy forces on their route of entry.

When the actual movement of the Red Army on the main roads became difficult and finally stopped completely, they tried to advance from outside the roads by bringing ski troops to help their own troops. Finns became familiar with one and feared division Dolin's ski brigade.

The gathering started a special series of events, which will have its equal in the entire Finnish Winter War. In Russia, even to this day, people wonder where their ski brigade of a couple of thousand valuables disappeared in just a few days.

The work contains several narratives, various statistics and war diary excerpts, color and black-and-white photographs and Finnish-language sketch maps, as well as the work's extensive list of contents and sources.

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