

## **KHOREZMIAN WOMEN ON THE FRONTS OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR (BASED ON ARCHIVAL DOCUMENTS)**

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**Annotation:** In this article, information about the women from the Khorezm region, who bravely fought alongside men for the peace and freedom of their homeland in the active army during the Second World War, is disclosed based on the analysis of archive documents. The activities of the women of the region, who died for the defense of the motherland at the front, in various professions will be discussed. They became not only nurses, doctors, but also took difficult professions such as shooters, snipers, scouts, telephone operators, pilots, ordinary soldiers, and so on. They bravely stood with the young men on the battlefields, carried out responsible work such as taking the wounded out of the battlefields and providing first aid. The article focuses on the activities of Khorezm girls of different nationalities who worked in various professions. In explaining the activities of these women, the documents in the state archives and articles about the heroines in periodicals are referred to.

**Keywords:** Khorezm, women, war, military mobilization, pilot, sniper, nurse.

History, present, and future generations will never forget that millions of innocent people lost their lives, families were destroyed, and children were orphaned during the Second World War. The need to inculcate the bravery of each of our compatriots who participated in the Second World War, the heroism of not only men but also women, into the minds of the young generation is stated in the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated October 23, 2019, No. PQ-4495 "On the appropriate celebration of the 75th anniversary of the victory in the Second World War" was noted in the decision<sup>1</sup>. On the initiative of the President, the names of all compatriots who participated in the Second World War are being restored and their names are being stamped in history with golden letters.

In 1941, along with the USSR, Uzbekistan was involved in the Second World War. The brave children of the people from all regions of Uzbekistan, including Khorezm region, tried to defend the Motherland. According to the results of new studies from Khorezm region in 2021, a total of 132 340 people participated in the war, of which 35845 people died, 53058 people went missing, 13211 people returned disabled, and 276 people were captured by the enemy. 30450 people who went to war from Khorezm region returned home safely<sup>2</sup>. According to the results of the new research, 4 people in the region received the title of Hero of the Soviet Union, one of them is a woman<sup>3</sup>. 132,840 people who went to war from the region, about 350 of them were women, who served in the active army and made a worthy contribution to the victory over fascism.

On June 22, 1941, the Soviet government prepared an appeal to the people of the whole country on the occasion of the beginning of the war, and it was announced on the radio on the same day. This appeal called on the people to unite firmly, and show organization and self-sacrifice to achieve victory. Rallies and meetings were held in all regions, cities and districts, enterprises, and institutions of Uzbekistan. Workers and intellectual classes, peasants, and student youth went to defend their homeland. The situation demanded the reconstruction of the life of the entire country following the requirements of the war and the mobilization of all forces and means. On June 23, 1941, the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union decided on the reorganization of the party and

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<sup>1</sup>On the appropriate celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Victory in the Second World War. Decision of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. October 23, 2019, PQ-4495 <https://lex.uz/docs/4664439>

<sup>2</sup>Khorezm Region Defense Works Archives Fund. December 2021 report. B.1..

<sup>3</sup>Saidolimov.S.O'zbekiston xalqining fashizm ustidan qozonilgan g'alabaga qo'shilgan hissasi.T."O'zbekiston".2020.B.131.

Soviet state offices following the war conditions. The decisions of the party and the Soviet government on martial law, the mobilization of people forced into military service in the Red Army, and the introduction of the mobilization plan for the production of weapons were announced. In the first month of the war, military commissariats received applications from more than 32,000 citizens who were asked to send themselves to the front. Such applications were also submitted by women.

On June 23, 1941, the military commissariat of Urgench district of Khorezm region received about 200 applications from people who expressed their desire to go to war. Within a few days, the military commissariat of Khorezm region received 1156 applications, 147 of which were from women<sup>4</sup>.

430 soldiers from the region who took part in the war received various titles and medals. Four of them are women, they are Dobrydneva Maria Feodorovna, AkhmedovaShafikaYusupovna, SadikovaMakhfuza, and Weiner Ida Yulevna.

Dobrydneva Maria Feodorovna was born in 1919. He was sent to the South-Western Front in 1941. The nationality of this woman is Ukrainian, she participated in the war until the end of World War II and was awarded the rank of Lieutenant. She lived on Communists Street in Urgench<sup>5</sup>.

AkhmedovaShafikaYusupovna, a Tatar by nationality, was born in 1921 and lived at 33 Khanka Street in Urgench until the war. She served in Stalingrad from 1942-1943<sup>6</sup>.

SadikovaMakhfuza, a Bashkird, was born in 1913. She served in the First Belorussian Front and received the rank of Senior Lieutenant. Before the war, M. Sodikova lived in Narimanov Street 13, in Urgench<sup>7</sup>.

Weiner Ida Yulevna, who lived in Khiva, was born in 1918 and was Latvian by nationality. She was promoted to Lieutenant during his service<sup>8</sup>.

Hero of the Soviet Union Sanfirova Olga Alexandrovna was born on May 2, 1917 (Kuybyshev city, Kuybyshev region) in the present city of Samara. In 1932, her family moved to the city of Urgench. Olga finished the 7th grade in her country and continues her studies in Urgench. While studying at school, this girl first worked as a technical secretary at the Khorezm district prosecutor's office, and later as a laborer at the Urgench oil plant. In 1935, Olga moved with her mother to the city of Kolomna to live with her sister NadezhdaKonstantinovna. From 1936-1937, he worked as a statistician in the Department of Sanitary Aviation in Moscow. In the autumn of 1937, he entered the aviation school in the Rostov region and graduated from it in 1940.

With the beginning of the war, Olga willingly went to the front and in 1942 began serving in the active army. First, she was a pilot, then deputy squadron commander, secretary of the Komsomol committee, and secretary of the initial party organization, she joined the party on March 14, 1942, and at the same time held the position of the squadron commander. Captain Sanfirova, squadron commander of the 46th Night Bomber Aviation Regiment (325th Night Bomber Aviation Division of the 2nd Belorussian Front, 4th Air Force), makes 630-night sorties to destroy enemy manpower and fortifications. She spent 875 hours in combat flight and dropped 77 tons of aerial bombs on the enemy<sup>9</sup>.

Olga Sanfirova always remembered Urgench during the war and told her comrades that she used to be called Layli, which caused her to be called "Layli" even during the war.

On the night of December 13, 1944, Olga Sanfirova, who chased the enemy from the Volga River to the western border of the USSR under the name "Layli", was heroically killed while performing a combat mission to destroy enemy positions. She was buried in the "Brotherhood" cemetery in Grodno, Belarus. On February 23, 1945, during the Second World War, 29 pilots were awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union<sup>10</sup>. Olga was the first heroic woman from Khorezm among them<sup>11</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup>Xotira. Xorazmviloyati. Birinchikitob. 1941-1945 yillardagiurushdao'yinvabedarakyo'qolganjangilar. – T.: O'zbekiston, 1994. – B.7.

<sup>5</sup>Archive of the Department of Defense Affairs of the city of Urganch. Book of registration of war participants. Account sheet. P. 307.

<sup>6</sup>Archive of the Department of Defense Affairs of the city of Urganch. Book of registration of war participants. Account sheet. P. 164.

<sup>7</sup>Archive of the Department of Defense Affairs of the city of Urganch. Book of registration of war participants. Account sheet. P. 992.

<sup>8</sup>Archive of Khiva City Department of Defense Affairs. Book of registration of war participants Account sheet INV #1661..P.98.

<sup>9</sup>Xotira kitob. O'zbekiston Respublikasi 1941-1945. –T: "Komuslar bosh ta'minoti". 1995.462-b

<sup>10</sup>Bilolov G,Sobirov.O, Qahramon qiz Olga. Xorazm haqiqati.1980 yil 9 may.4-bet.

<sup>11</sup>Saidolimov S. Vklad naroda Uzbekistana v pobedu nad fashizmom.(Kniga-albom)T.,,"Uzbekiston".2020.s-131.

Maria Fedorovna Dobridneva - this woman, originally from Ukraine, came to Khorezm to improve the health of her daughter Galina and stayed here. Maria joined the First Guard of the 62nd Army under the defense of Stalingrad in 1941 from the military unit in the city of Urgench, Khorezm region. Guards medical service lieutenant Maria Fedorovna Dobridneva saved the lives of many soldiers during the war in 1941-1945. The fighting path of this brave girl continued from Kyiv, Kursk, Belarus, Poland, and Czechoslovakia to Berlin. Maria's services for the freedom of the Motherland were rewarded. He was awarded the medals "For Courage", "For the Heroic Defense of Kyiv", "For the Defense of Stalingrad", "For the Liberation of Warsaw", "For the Occupation of Berlin"<sup>12</sup>, dozens of letters of thanks and the title of Guards Medical Lieutenant by the Supreme Command. After the war, Maria Fedorova worked as a nurse in the first hospital in the region.

Another brave woman from Khorezm was Akhmedova Shafika was born in Khiva in 1921. Shafika graduated from high school in 1937 and entered the Samarkand Medical Institute.

She was a 4<sup>th</sup>-year student when the war started. In 1942, after receiving a medical diploma, she went to the front as a doctor. Shafika Akhmedova was just 21 years old when she was assigned as a regimental doctor to the 190th Rifle Regiment of the 64th Army fighting in Stalingrad<sup>13</sup>. Shafika's belief in victory motivated her to work tirelessly, so she treated hundreds of wounded every day. When the Nazis tried to occupy the Mamai fortress, the Soviet soldiers repelled the attack with all their might. Then the young doctor Shafika walked under the hail of bullets and gave first aid to the wounded. After the liberation of Stalingrad from the enemy, Shafika Akhmedova was sent to the Kursk-Oryol front<sup>14</sup>. On the way, the landing stage was suddenly attacked by German planes, the steam locomotive was disabled. Many people were died and injured. Here too, a brave girl from Khorezm provided first aid to many wounded with the help of nurses. She sent the seriously wounded to the back of the front.

On the eve of the end of the war, she was sent to work behind the front. As soon as the war ends, he returns to Khiva, where she was born and raised<sup>15</sup>. After the war, he worked as a doctor treating children at the Khiva city hospital, as the head of the scientific department at the medical school in the city, and as a treating doctor at the railway hospital of Urganch city.

Galina Andreevna Lapina – born in 1924. She grew up in an international family among representatives of different nationalities. When Galina was just 12 years old, her father died. Three children were orphaned with their mother, the eldest of them was Galina. Her family first lived in Altai, then moved to Ashgabat. Here, young Galina worked and helped her family. She was sixteen years old when the war started. Like many young people, she went to the military commissariat with her friends. But she was sent back from the commissariat because of her age. In March 1944, Galina was drafted into the army. She studied at the Central Women's School for Sniper Training. After graduating from school, Galina Andreevna received the rank of junior sergeant and went to the front.

Galina Lapina began to serve in the 948th rifle regiment of the 257th division, which was fighting in Klaipeda. In the middle of December 1944, Galina went out on reconnaissance with her comrade-in-arms friend Anya Pelmenova. She destroys several enemy soldiers during this mission. At the end of January 1945, she went to the Baltic Sea with her military unit. Galina returned to Ashgabat after the war. She worked there in the railway sector and continued her career in Urganch.

Andreeva Fedora Alexandrovna was born in Tatarstan in 1924 and served in the army from March 1943 to April 1946.

During the Second World War, the frontline press played a major role in raising the spirits of our fighters and increasing their confidence in victory. Newspapers and magazines in every language are published at the Front. At such a time, Feodora, who is studying in the 3rd year of the Kazan City Police Academy, agrees to work at the front printing house and goes to the front.

Feodora graduated from the 7th grade at an educational institution in the Kokmara district of Tatarstan and in 1940 went to study at the Institute of Polygraphy in Kazan. She went to the front in February 1943 when he was 18 years old. Feodora Andreeva works as a typist in a Tatar newspaper on the 2nd Belorussian Front.

Feodora Andreeva published the newspaper "For the Motherland" in Russian, Uzbek, Tatar, Kazakh, and other languages. "The printing house was located in wagons, near the front. The enemy's

<sup>12</sup>Rajabov.N, Reyxstagga dastxat bitgan juvon.Xorazm haqiqati 1980 yil 9 may 3-bet.

<sup>13</sup>Aminova.R.Galaba qushigi yangrasin mangu. Saodat jurnali.1968 yil №5.5-bet

<sup>14</sup>Matjonov.K. Izzatda. The Journal of Saodat.1975 yil №5.p 30.

<sup>15</sup>Qurbonboev B. Shunda bir ayol bor. The Newspaper of Trust of Khorezm.2/02/1973,p 2.

bombs and shells were exploding next to us, deafening the ears. I still remember the multi-ethnic guys who worked as typists and reporters at Front newspapers. Sharif Bulatov was the editor of the Uzbek newspaper. Abdulla Khasanov from Tashkent and AdhamHamdamov from Ferghana worked as reporters. They were in the most difficult areas of the front, took part in battles, and found heroes for their war essays and paintings,” says Feodora.

Feodora worked together with AtamurodAvazmurodov from Khorezm. AtamurodAvazmurodov was an active correspondent of the Uzbek-language newspaper. After the war, he returned to Khorezm. FeodoraAndreeva came to Khorezm in 1947 by fate and married him. She worked in the enterprises and organizations of Boghot district for 30 years. Feodora was awarded “For service at the front”, “For bravery”, “Veteran of labor” and other medals for her great Patriotic war and peaceful services<sup>16</sup>.

Yelena PetrovnaIvanova, a senior teacher of the Department of Russian Linguistics of Khorezm State Pedagogical Institute, applied for military service on March 3, 1942. However, the application is rejected. Finally, after some time, she was sent to the unit of the 2nd Ukrainian Front near the banks of the Dnieper. The 2nd Ukrainian Front is in position near the banks of the Dnieper. Front fighters should cross the river on the bridge and march in the direction of Kyiv. Guarding the pontoon bridge was the responsibility of 1 military section. She is seriously injured during a military air raid at midnight. In this fight, Yelena gets seriously injured in her back and leg. In subsequent battles, she shows heroism several times.

In addition to military actions, there are also many women from Khorezm who worked in construction works behind the front. In the summer of 1942, on one of the hot days of June, people gathered on the pier. Most of them were women going to the front. The ship was carrying 580 women. They worked in the construction battalions of the front. They showed courage in rebuilding the cities destroyed by the war. Among them were friends from the front - RaziyaAtamurodova and SaliyajanHasanova<sup>17</sup>.Such women's construction battalions showed enthusiasm for building the city of Ural, Sverdlovsk region.

One of the women RaziyaAtamurodova from Koshkopir district of Khorezm, who is part of this group, tells this story: - “I was 16 years old when the front left. We do not know how to shoot, nor how to resist the enemy. At such times, our soldiers would come and protect us. At first, we started living and working in the basement. Working conditions were very difficult, only 350 grams of bread were given per day. Most of the women were 16-18-year-old village girls. Later, they formed a women's combat division and taught them how to shoot rifles. We worked with guns around our necks. Thus, I served in the construction battalion for eight months. We became like sisters to each other. I hurt my leg and went to the hospital. SaliyajanHasanova from Ghazavat has also been suffering from a serious illness and has been receiving treatment here for a long time. After the hospital, they sent us back home. Many girls from Khiva, Urganch, and Shavat districts served with us. Their fate is unknown to us”.

The war wiped out millions of people. Most of the fighters who went to the front from Khorezm did not return. The memory of the boys and girls who died during the war lives forever in the hearts of our people. The memory of the boys and girls who died during the war lives forever in the hearts of our people. Memorial monuments to those who died in the war have been erected in all district centers and many villages of our region. The Day of Remembrance and Appreciation is celebrated every year. The study of the lives and activities of women who went to the Second World War from Khorezm continues. We will focus on their activities in future publications.

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<sup>16</sup>Nurmatov R. Jangi matbaachi. Xorazm haqiqati.The Newspaper of Trust of Khorezm.4/01/1985,p 3.

<sup>17</sup>Mullaev Q. Shinel kiygan qizlar.The Newspaper of Trust of Khorezm.9/05/1995,p 3.

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