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# THE UZBEK PEOPLE'S RESPECT FOR GENERAL SABIR RAHIMOV AND HIS CONTRIBUTION TO THE SECOND WORLD WAR

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**Abstract:** This article talks about the bravery and heroism of Sabir Rahimov, known as "Iron General" in World War II. This, in turn, encourages the growing young generation to grow up to be brave and brave, to serve the Motherland and nation with loyalty and determination.

*Keywords*: Life and military life of general, courage and heroism, Hero of the Soviet Union, monument to the Hero, museum of "Shon-sharaf.

Rahimov Sabir Umarovich - commander of the 37<sup>th</sup> Guards Rifle Rechitsa Twice Red Replacement Order of Suvorov 2nd Class Kutuzov 1st Class Bogdan Khmelnitsky 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Division of the 65<sup>th</sup> Army of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Belorussian Front, Guards Major General.

Born on January 25 (according to other sources, January 1) 1902 in the city of Tashkent. Uzbek. As a child, he knew the need early, spent several years in an orphanage, then worked as a laborer, worked at the Tashkent weaving factory.

In September 1922, he volunteered for the Red Army. He graduated from the Baku United Military School in 1925. Since August 1925 he served as a cavalry platoon commander in a separate Uzbek cavalry division, since 1927 - in the 1<sup>st</sup> Uzbek cavalry regiment of the 6th Uzbek cavalry brigade of the Central Asian military district the regiment was stationed in Samarkand. Participated in battles with the Basmachi, was wounded. Member of the CPSU (b) since 1928. In 1930 he graduated from the Shooting and tactical advanced training courses for the command staff of the Red Army named after the Comintern. Since September 1930, he continued to serve in the 41<sup>st</sup> Mountain Cavalry Regiment of the 19th Mountain Cavalry Division of the same district: commander of a machine-gun squadron, assistant chief of staff of the regiment, head of the regimental school. From November 1936 - Chief of Staff of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Regiment, Samarkand.

In July 1938 he was dismissed from the Red Army and arrested on false charges. Over two years he was in prison under investigation. In October 1940, he was released due to the termination of the case and reinstated in the army. At the end of 1940, he was appointed deputy commander of the 9th motorized rifle regiment of the 9th tank division of the Central Asian military district (the regiment was stationed in the city of Bayram-Ali, Mary region, Turkmen SSR).

At the beginning of World War II, the division as part of the 27th mechanized corps arrived at the front, where the regiment was renamed the 104th motorized rifle regiment, and the division - the 104th tank division. Major S. U. Rahimov participated in the war in the army from July 1941 as deputy commander of the 104th motorized rifle regiment. Participated in the Western Front in the Smolensk defensive battle. In the battle on August 1, 1941, he was seriously wounded in the Elninsk direction, and was in the hospital for almost three months.

On October 31, 1941, he was appointed commander of the 1149th Infantry Regiment of the 353rd Infantry Division in the 56th Separate Army. He participated in the Rostov defensive operation, during which his regiment steadfastly held the defense near the village of Bolshie Sala, Rostov Region, and



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then, being transferred to the Rostov direction, during the Rostov offensive operation, one of the first broke into Rostov-on-Don and acted excellently further pursuit of the 1st German tank army to Taganrog. In the battle on December 17, 1941, he was again wounded and shell-shocked, but remained in the ranks. For these battles he was awarded his first front-line order. Then the regiment and division were transferred to the 18th Army of the Southern Front, in May 1942, Sabir Rahimov, who had already become a lieutenant colonel, was appointed deputy commander of the 395th rifle division. With the division, he went through heavy defensive battles in the summer and autumn of 1942 on the Don and in the Kuban.

From August 1, 1942, he served as commander of the 395th Infantry Division of the Primorsky Operational Group of Forces of the North Caucasian Front (since September 1942 - the Black Sea Group of Forces of the Transcaucasian Front). Participated in the defense of the North Caucasus, especially distinguished himself in the Tuapse defensive operation in September 1942, where the troops of the 18th Army, including the 395th Infantry Division, managed to stop the enemy strike force on the distant approaches to the city, and then push it back to considerable distance. Near Tuapse on September 15, 1942, Colonel Rahimov was wounded for the third time. At the beginning of 1943, the division performed well in the North Caucasian offensive operation. But after an unsuccessful attempt to break through the German defenses on the Blue Line, on April 8, 1943, he was removed from the post of division commander. In June 1943 he was sent to study.

In April 1943, Major General Rahimov graduated from the Higher Military Academy named after K.E. Voroshilov. In June 1944 he was appointed deputy commander of the 75th Guards Rifle Division of the 65th Army of the 1st Belorussian Front. He distinguished himself in the Bobrusk offensive operation, where he led the actions of one of the regiments with reinforcement units to repel an attempt to break through the encircled German group. During the three days of the battle, the enemy lost over 1,500 soldiers and officers killed, and about 2,000 people were captured. Then he distinguished himself in offensive battles during the Lublin-Brest offensive operation, received his fourth wound in battle on July 20, 1944, and returned to battle after dressing. From September 8, 1944, he commanded the 47th Guards Rifle Division in the 8th Guards Army, participated in the battles for the defense and expansion of the Magnushevsky bridgehead on the Vistula.

In November 1944 he was appointed commander of the 37th Guards Rifle Division of the 65th Army on the 2nd Belorussian Front. In January-February 1945, the division fought in the East Prussian Offensive. General Rahimov distinguished himself during the assault on the fortress city of Graudenz (now Grudziadz, Poland), which was defended by a 9,000-strong garrison. The soldiers of the 37th Guards Division, which was temporarily assigned to the 2nd Shock Army under the command of General I.I. Fedyuninsky, broke through enemy fortifications on the outskirts of the city with a powerful blow on February 16, 1945, liberated several settlements and were the first to break into the city. In a fierce battle on the city streets, where every house was adapted for defense, the enemy several times forced the attacking units out of the city and each time the guards restored the occupied lines. The stubborn actions of Rahimov's division pulled the main forces of the garrison onto it, which allowed other units on the night of February 22 from different sides to liberate the city with a simultaneous blow. The remnants of the garrison took refuge in the medieval citadel and capitulated a few days later.

The division returned to the 65th Army and in February-March 1945 showed itself well in offensive battles in the East Pomeranian operation, having covered about 150 kilometers in several days with battles. The guards were the first in the army to reach the coast of the Baltic Sea, cutting off the Danzig garrison from the main enemy grouping in the lower reaches of the Vistula. Without slowing down the pace of the offensive, the division changed the direction of the strike and was the first to break into Danzig (now Gdansk), starting street battles for the city. General Rahimov skillfully led the actions of



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the division's units, personally led the battle in the most intense areas, and showed personal courage in battles.

In one of the battles on March 25, 1945, during artillery shelling of attacking units by enemy ships, a direct hit from a heavy projectile destroyed an observation post of the division. Major General Sabir Rahimov, who was at the observation post, was mortally wounded by a shell fragment in the head and on March 26 died in the hospital without regaining consciousness.

He was buried in the capital of Uzbekistan - Tashkent in the park named after Kafanov.

For courage and heroism shown during the Great Patriotic War, Guards Major General Sabir Umarovich Rahimov was awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union by the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR of May 6, 1965 (posthumously).

Major General (03/19/1943). He was awarded the Order of Lenin (05/06/1945, posthumously), 4 orders of the Red Banner (01/04/1942, 12/13/1942, 08/14/1944, 1944), orders of Suvorov 2nd degree (03/08/1943), Kutuzov 2nd degree (04/10/1945), Red Star (04/30/1936), medal "For the Defense of the Caucasus".

General Rahimov was rightfully revered in Uzbekistan as a national hero. A majestic monument was erected to him in Tashkent. The same monument was erected in Samarkand. In 1967, the feature film "General Rahimov" was shot at the "Uzbekfilm" film studio. The name of General Rahimov was borne by the station of the Tashkent metro and one of the districts of Tashkent. Also, his name was given to an academic lyceum at the National University, a school in Tashkent, a station and a state farm in Uzbekistan. After 2000, much was done to perpetuate the memory of S. U. Rahimov in Kazakhstan: a monument to the Hero was erected in Chimkent, a boarding school was named after him. Streets in Tashkent, Urgench, Chimkent, Taraz are named after General Rahimov. The memorial plate was installed at the cemetery of Soviet soldiers in Gdansk. Poland.

According to the historians of the museum of "Shon-sharaf", in the mid-60s, Sabir Rahimov's wife was given the symbolic key to the city of Gdansk. This means that the Polish people will not forget the person who fought for freedom from the enemy.

The grave of Sabir Rahimov was moved to Tashkent. Many artistic works and a feature film were created based on his heroic deeds. In May 2018, the statue of the general was re-erected in the alley in Almazor district of Tashkent city. In 2010, the Uzbek authorities first renamed the metro station, and then the district of the capital of Uzbekistan, named after the Hero. On January 6, 2011, a monument to the general was removed to the outskirts of the city in Tashkent. Fortunately, justice prevailed and on May 9, 2018, the monument was restored and solemnly reopened in its original place.

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