

Shusha during the years of the occupation

On the night of February 25-26, 1992, after the Armenian fascists committed one of the greatest tragedies of the 20th century, the Khojaly genocide, Shusha was covered with black clouds. In March 1992, the armed forces of Armenia and the 366th regiment, the former Soviet army, occupied the 55 Azerbaijani settlements in the mountainous part of Karabakh, with the exception of Shusha.

The city of Shusha, which was of great military-strategic and moral-political importance, was under siege. A strong attack on the city was expected. Only the Lachin road was opened to Shusha. Then 180 soldiers, including 22 demobilized officers of the 366th motorized rifle regiment of the former Soviet army, went over to the side of the Armenians and had 96 armored vehicles at their disposal.

At this time, the confrontation between the authorities and the opposition in Azerbaijan intensified. After the fall of Khojaly, President Ayaz Mutallibov was dismissed, and the post of President passed to the newly elected Chairman of the Supreme Soviet, Yagub Mammadov. Armed formations of the Popular Front, which wanted to come to power, were formed not subordinate to the Ministry of Defense. To prevent the military aggression of Armenia, a unified command was not formed. Rahim Gaziev, not being a military man, was appointed military commandant of Shusha at the beginning of February, and the minister of defense on March 17.

The defense of the city was very weak, although it was known that the enemy would attack at any moment. The twenty-four heavy combat



The ruined Shusha

vehicles were involved in the defense of Shusha. Most of them were out of order. Military communications, the level of training of the defenders of Shusha, discipline in the army were very low. Conflicts between the armed forces defending the city intensified, and there was a split and lawlessness. Two days before the attack, Shusha was completely cut off from the outside world.

The Ministry of Defense announced the arrival of OSCE representatives from Khankendi to Shusha, and therefore the area around the city was cleared of mines. This made it easier for the Armenians to attack the city. The many fighters were given short-term "leave". At that time, out of 1,500 fighters, about 500 remained in Shusha. 200 volunteers who defended the city of Shusha left the city with weapons. Military equipment, "Grad" installations were taken out of the city, on May 4, 1992 a special-purpose militia detachment of 120 fighters left Shusha and took up a position on the Boyuk Kirs Mountain. In order to ensure the rise of the Popular Front to power in early May from Shusha and Lachin, more than 4,000 armed people belonging to various political groups were summoned to Baku.

Back in April 1992, with the mediation of Iran, negotiations began to resolve the conflict.



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The Iranian Foreign Minister has visited the region several times. The attack on the city took place on May 8 during a meeting between the Chairman of the Supreme Council Yagub Mammadov and the Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan in Tehran.

The operation to capture the city was entrusted to Colonel

Arkady Ter-Tadevosyan, nicknamed "Commandos". During the attack on Shusha, the enemy used 80 T-72 tanks, 6,000 militants and foreign mercenaries.

On the morning of May 8, 1992, Armenian troops occupied most of the positions around Shusha. Only in some positions did the enemy face serious resistance. Our soldiers, stationed at a place called "Gayabashi", fought to their last breath, and despite the fact that 40 people were killed, they could not prevent a strong attack. Unfortunately, the city's defenders did not receive help from the surrounding areas. Our helicopters, sent to the rescue in the evening, accidentally fired at the positions of the city's defenders and destroyed infantry fighting vehicles. On the evening of May 8, 1992, the 40 defenders of Shusha had been forced to leave the city. Thus, on May 8, 1992, the Armenian fascists, using the military equipment of the 366th regiment and mercenaries from

abroad, occupied the Shusha region, consisting of 1 city and 30 villages with an area of 289 square kilometers, with a population of 24 thousand people.

In the battles for Shusha, 155 defenders of the city became martyrs, 167 people were wounded, and 49 people were missing. The fate of many of these missing persons is still unknown.

Because of the occupation of Shusha, 195 Azerbaijani citizens were killed with extreme cruelty, 165 people were injured, 150 of them became disabled, 552 children lost their parents, and 58 people were captured and taken hostage. The fate of 58 Azerbaijani captives and hostages is still unknown.



Armenian invaders in Shusha

Rizvan Teymurov and Ramiz Gambarov, who were born in Shusha, the homeland of heroes with an ancient history, were awarded the honorary title "National Hero of Azerbaijan" for personal courage and bravery in battles for Shusha, for protecting the sovereignty and territorial

integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan, for ensuring the security of the civilian population...



The ruined Shusha

To erase the historical traces of Azerbaijani people in Shusha, Armenian vandals destroyed 248 historical and architectural monuments, including Panah Ali Khan's palace, Juma mosque, Ashagi Govkhar Agha mosque, Khurshidbanu Natavan's house, the

mausoleum of Molla Panakh Vagif. Also was destroyed 7 preschool institutions, 22 secondary schools, 8 children's music schools, cultural, educational, agricultural technical schools, a secondary music school, 8 houses of culture, 17 clubs, 31 libraries, 2 cinemas, 8 museums, the State Picture Gallery, the only factory of oriental musical instruments in the Caucasus, where rare pearls of art. The Armenians, resorting to atrocities incompatible with human nature, shot the busts of such historical figures as Uzeyir Hajibeyov, Bulbul and Natavan.



Armenian vandalism in Shusha cemetery

The Armenian vandals robbed about 5000 items of the historical museum of the city. Also they robbed 200 hundred carpets of the Shusha branch of the State Museum of Azerbaijani Carpet and Applied Arts, about 1000 items of the State Museum of the History of Karabakh, funds of the memorial museums of the founder of professional Azerbaijani music, composer Uzeyir Hajibeyov



*Armenian Prime Minister N. Pashinyan is dancing yalli in Shusha.
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(more than 300 items), the great singer Bulbul (about 400 items), the famous musician and artist Mira Movsum Navvab (more than 100 items) were transported to Armenia, some of which were sold in foreign markets.

The Armenian vandals, who occupied this ancient Azerbaijani city for 28 years, decided to move the "capital" of the so-called Nagorno-Karabakh Republic from Khankendi to Shusha.

Annually, the events were held on May 8 in Shusha. The Armenians presented Shusha to foreign guests as an “ancient Armenian city”. They believed that Shusha would forever remain under their occupation. However, on November 8, 2020, the heroic Azerbaijani soldiers liberated Shusha from the enemy and wrote a bright heroic page in history.