

## Memory can't fade away

Freedom is something that could be described in many different words by different people. For some it might be ability to behave and act in a way they like without any restrictions, a chance to express their opinion freely with no fear of being criticised and for others it is simply knowing that you are not dependent on anyone and have a completely free will when it comes to controlling and managing life in general. But along with that, freedom for a lot of people accosiates with memories. Memories that hold tough and difficult battles, variety of emotions and experiences. Memories that never, ever fade away. A great example to this is Lithuania's partisan wars. However, are those wars enough to actually stay in people's minds and country's history as something that will never be forgotten?

First of all, in my estimation, these wars showed an undeniable unity of Lithuanians. Lithuanian partisan wars, also known as resistance wars or simply resistance, took place in 1944-1953 years. The aim of these wars was highly wanted freedom – Lithuania was under control of Soviet Russia which led our nation into wanting to be independent. It all started with small groups of people gathering together until those small groups eventually formed big squads – partisans. Almost one hundred thousand of them, along with other volunteers and supporting forces, stood up to fight the intruders from the East. Lasting for almost ten years, Lithuanian partisan movement proved that even the biggest setbacks that happened during the resistance were not powerful enough to result in partisan squads separating. They gathered voluntarily and fought as one until the very last minute, showing the world what real unity is.

Another aspect that makes resistance stand out is what a massive effort from partisans it required and what happened after the war. Considering the fact that partisan wars, sadly, were not successful when it comes to the goal – freedom was not won – most people would say that, if so, these wars did not do any good at all. On top of that, most would also point out that they resulted in twenty thousand of victims the deportations, repressions, executions and other violent actions from Russia towards Lithuania. However, resistance provoked Lithuanians to fight even harder to reach independence and sped up the actual process of achieving it greatly. It is also worth mentioning that Lithuanian partisans fought against Soviet Russia in a ratio of forces completely unfavorable to them, that not only shows the hard conditions that Lithuanians had to face, but once again puts into light their courage and unbreakable strength.

All things considered, I believe there is no hesitation why Lithuanian partisan wars will always be remembered. Along with its brave heroes – partisans – this resistance is something no other state has ever showed. For the rest of our and our country's existence, we will always remember how massively partisan wars contributed to getting closer to the independence of Lithuania, what great qualities of our nation it revealed and how it made us – Lithuanians – even stronger, more patriotic and inseparably united as a nation.

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