

## **Khiuaz. Have time to say “Thank you”**

The 46<sup>th</sup> Taman Red banner guard named after A.Suvorov of the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree is a night bomber aviation regiment is a unique aviation regiment of the war years. Legendary women served there. One of them was Khiuaz Dospanova, the first Kazakh pilot.

A modest biography of the fearless Kazakh woman

Khiuaz was born on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 1922 in Guryev region in the village Ganyushkino. In 1940 she graduated from school №1 with gold medal in Uralsk. In the 8 form she decided that she would fly. Her parents were not against when she went to the aeroclub.

After high school Khiuaz went to study to Moscow. Firstly, she enrolled to Zhukovsky Military Air force academy, but they refused to take her and then, she entered the First Moscow Medicine Institute. It was a hot summer of 1991, she finished the first course and was going home, but she could not: the war began. She had to stay in Moscow.

-When my mother knew about formation of Women’s aviation regiment under the command of Marina Raskova, she applied to it- said the heroine’s son Erbolat, - and she went with the other girls to the college under Saratov. She was in the navigation department with her close friend Raya Aronova. The success of the mission implementation mostly depended on the navigator and accuracy of his calculations. The route was laid on the land, but there could be anything on the sky, so they learned the map of the district by heart – every hill, lake, highway and station.

Oriented by the stars

In May 1942 the only female aviation regiment of the light bombers in the history of the USSR came under the command of the senior lieutenant Yevdokiya Bershanskaya.

It was jokingly called “dunkin” regiment.

Her comrade-in-arms remembered that Katya-they gave such name to Khiuaz- was very mischievous, romantic and lively girl with a delicate figure and the smallest foot size – 33. The first deployment of pilots was Krasnodan. They located in the forest. The aircrafts were dazzled by the trees and they built doovers.

Khiuaz remembered her first assault flight all her life

She wrote in her book: “Under Raskova’s command”: “How narrow is the pilot’s cabin! Everything seemed to be huge and clumsy. The parachute is on the back, a gas mask is on one side, a gun, a lighting air bomb, which navigator throws overboard in the necessary moment to brighten the object, the rocket launcher with rockets to brighten in case of forced landing and rudder control and interphone!” Navigator-sniper Khiuaz flew with Yuliya Pashkova. Dospanova was wounded in the Caucasus battle for the first time, but the worst happened later – April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1943.

A pilot Raisa Aronova remembered in her book “Night witches”:

-At that time the planes flew above our airfield. They probably knew something. In order to tone-down, the regiment commander ordered to minimize light signals and forbade using aeronautical lights. It happened so that two planes came at the same time from the mission, collided with each other. Yulia Pashkova with Katya Dospanova were on one plane and Polina Makogon with Lida Svistunova were in another one. Katya just remembered there was a crack and the plane began to fall...She woke on the ground under wreckage. It was silent around. Katya wanted to cry for help, but she only moaned. There was an only thought in her mind: she must give a signal! Katya managed to pull a gun, but after few movements she fainted again. Julia Pashkova was half dead and bleeding and she could shoot several times. The ambulance drove to the place of the accident. Makogon and Svistunova were dead. Dospanova and Pashkova were taken to a field hospital. Yulia died on the operating table. Katya also did not show any signs of life and they put her to the morgue next to her friend. Then they noticed that she did not cover with a deadly pallor. The doctors took all measures to rescue the little girl and a miracle happened, her eyelashes fluttered and she opened her eyes. Several days and nights doctors fought for her life. There was a question about amputation

of her leg, but the chief surgeon of the hospital said that he could not deprive her without a leg.

Katya could survive. She rose from the dead.

She was brought in gypsum to Essentuki. After some time, x-rays showed that the adherence was going wrong. They broke the plaster and corrected the bones. Khiuaz survived only because she did not attach to the seat by instructions and during the crash she was thrown from the cabin.

Khiuaz Dospanova made 300 assault flights

She arrived to Germany together with her regiment. “Night witches” participated in the liberation of Kuban, Taman, Novorossiysk, the Crimea, Belorussia, Poland. The women made 2000 flights only on the territory of Germany. During the war times, the pilots dropped 2 902 980 kg of bombs, 26 000 firecrackers. 32 women died in the battles. Khiuaz Dospanova was awarded the orders of Red star, Patriotic war of the II degree, the Red Banner, medals “For defense of Caucasus”, “For liberation of Warsaw”, “For Victory over Germany” for courage and bravery.

Coming home

Khiuaz came back to Uralsk in 1945, she was only 23 years old and she was the invalid of the second group. She did not fly anymore, aviation as the war remained in the past. She wanted to study further in medicine institute, but she was offered to get involved in the party work. She entered the Higher party school in Alma-Ata and there she got acquainted with her husband Shaku Amirov. Her career was going well: she was a secretary of the Central Committee of Kazakhstan, a deputy of the Supreme Court of the Kazakh SSR and on its first session – a secretary of the Presidium. She held a position of the secretary of Alma-Ata municipal committee of the party. When she was 37, she had to retire. In 2010 a monument was opened in the honor of the pilot, a street named in honor of Khiuaz Dospanova opened in Almaty. Sport Palace in Atyrau is named in honor of her too. A documentary “Khiuaz Dospanova. Have time to say thank you” is devoted to her – an only pilot from Kazakhstan of war times. In 2004 by Order of the President of

the Republic of Kazakhstan Khiuz Dospanova received the highest award of our country – Gold medal “Khalyk kaharmany”.

*Anar ASHIROVA, head of Department for work with archives of historical-documentary collection of personal origin of the Central State Archive of RK*