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15:09 in Moscow, on air at Book Casino. It's me again, Alexey Kuznetsov. Today I am substituting for Ksenia Larina, and Svetlana Rostovtseva is as always at her post at the sound engineer's console.

And before I introduce our guests today, as usual at Book Casino, we will announce the top positions in the sales leader ranking from April 30 to May 6, compiled from data provided by the three largest Moscow bookstores: "Moscow House of Books," "Biblio-Globus," and "Moscow."

I am particularly pleased to introduce two guests well known to all our radio listeners in the studio, because today they are not quite guests, but you could say, practically its hosts. This is Vitaly Dymarsky.

Hello, Vitaly Naumovich. Yes, good afternoon. And Vladimir Ryzhkov.

Hello, Vladimir Alexandrovich. I almost said "good evening." Out of habit.

And I wanted to add on air "The Price of Victory." Yes, but in a sense, it really is "The Price of Victory" on air, because today we are presenting a book that has just been released, the "Dilettante" book series, the book "Faces of War," which is based on the programs "The Price of Victory" on Echo of Moscow. And I want to start with a quote from the editor-in-chief of our radio station.

Alexey Alekseevich said that "The Price of Victory" is one of the strongest historical programs on Echo of Moscow, and "Faces of War" based on it turned out even stronger. Are you satisfied with the book?

Yes and no, to be honest. Yes, because when a book is published, it's always good, because after all, we are people of that generation who are more accustomed to the printed word than to Facebook.

To the word on electronic media.

Yes, and of course, it is somehow a more lasting memory, I would say. When the book itself is published, it is better preserved. On the other hand, what I am dissatisfied with, but you always have to be dissatisfied with something, is that the process, the technology of working on the book is quite, on one hand, complex, but in this case, it is quite simple. So they just took the transcriptions of our programs, and we edited them as much as possible.

I just wanted to ask, how extensive was the editorial work on the transcriptions?

This is what I am dissatisfied with. There was editorial work, but I believe it should have been deeper and more extensive. And there is never enough time, effort, or even, how to say, the publisher is not willing to wait and so on. They rush, hurry up, hurry up, hurry up.

Therefore, in the first approximation, you manage to do something, but it brings with it, and I apologize in advance to the readers who will find some typos, some errors, well, that's how it is.

In general, the pace of book publishing has changed somehow, we remember back in Soviet times. They made it in a year. Yes, a year or two, they were meticulous over every comma.

And they waited until the publisher's plans coincided.

And now, as we see, this modern market economy, the publisher works on the fly. Such a book, come on, come on, what are you waiting for, and the readers are already, and come on, and now the second one is being prepared for autumn. We are presenting this today. You haven't even handed it over yet, and it's already being sold.

The market economy has many advantages, but of course, the speed it dictates is something unimaginable.

And I am still poisoned by the first entry in my work record.

Editor?

No, proofreader.

Even worse.

Therefore, for me, of course, it's all just...

So, you read your own book, including as a proofreader?

Well, I try, I can't help it, it's already in my blood.

It's called professional deformation.

Yes, exactly, like in a magazine. Well, of course, like any proofreader, you can miss something, but...

Here we are rightly reminded that tomorrow is the dilettante readings at the historical museum. Please come at 12:00. We reminded you, we will come. Yes, you must come, come. And Sergei Buntman promised to come for sure, he said today that he will come too. He is the host there.

Yes, at 7 pm tomorrow at the historical museum. And there are still tickets available. There aren't many left, but there are still some, so hurry up. And Vyacheslav Mikhailovich asks if this book will be there tomorrow.

No.

You know, it's not signed. The book will be brought tomorrow, the publisher promised, you can buy it there. And we, as authors, along with Svetlana Ulchin, will definitely sign it for everyone who wants.

So come with double motivation to talk about memory and the history of war, and also to get a book.

Yes, about the first motivation that Volodya mentioned, I would add that somehow this presentation is announced through the figure of Churchill, which is interesting in itself. He is on our cover.

Well, and he is one of the main characters.

Yes, without a doubt. But I would like, and I hope it will be, that tomorrow's conversation at this presentation will be broader, generally about the history of war, about the actualization, if you like, of this history.

About myths.

About myths, about history as a tool of politics today, especially since we have just gone through another anniversary of the end of the war, victory, which, again, gave food for thought.

And we continue the conversation about the book "Faces of War." And the first thing that struck me when I opened the table of contents. A very interesting selection. Some people are well enough known, like Churchill, for example. Some are less so. Some names, I think, some listeners, those who are not particularly interested in history, will wonder. Marshal Harris, for example, who is he.

But when it comes to Soviet war heroes, there is an interesting situation. First, there is a separate chapter on the correspondence of the leaders of the "Big Three." Well, of course, Stalin, Roosevelt, and Churchill.

But from purely Soviet figures, there is only one hero, and he is not particularly well known. The diaries of Lieutenant Gelfand. The broadcast was with the well-known historian Oleg Budnitsky. Why such a choice? Lieutenant Gelfand and numerous...

I will say. First, there are certainly more Soviet figures than just Gelfand. There are other people. This is mainly... This is when we could tell about ordinary people. Ordinary not by rank, there are lieutenants, not large commanders. There are no large commanders here. I think they will appear. In general, it's amazing. For 13 years, the program "The Price of Victory" has existed. It has probably broken all records for its duration. We really don't have many... We talked about Soviet marshals. Now we have the last, I think, 2 or 3 recordings made with Mlechin.

We did Budyonny. We did Voroshilov.

But Budyonny was done for an anniversary.

No, no, no. We just take such Stalinist figures, which everyone has heard of, whose portraits everyone has seen. But few know who they really were.

Well, many have read Mlechin's book "Stalin's Marshals."

Well, probably, yes.

So we will probably continue to do that. There was initially a feeling that everyone knows about it. Better to do something...

We did about Zhukov.

I don't know.

Well, Zhukov is there too...

We did about Chuikov, about Stalingrad.

Yes, Zhukov is a special story. Because there are so many views on Zhukov and so many opinions about Zhukov. Because I remember one of them is Suvorov. And I with Suvorov...

And Viktor Astafyev also had some concerns.

Moreover, Suvorov has two opinions about Zhukov. He then changed his mind.

Viktor Suvorov?

Well, yes. I met with Suvorov. I did a big, not even one, but two or three interviews with him. We met in London. But it was necessary to somehow show Zhukov. Indeed, there are different opinions about him. I don't remember who else, I think Isaev or someone else also talked about Zhukov. Therefore, Zhukov, as such a controversial figure, he still featured with us. I don't know why they didn't make it into the book.

Well, maybe he will be in the second one.

But I think we will get there. I think we already have the second book almost ready. I think, maybe the third one too. Because I think it's a good move to show the war through faces, through some figures, not through battles.

That is, the human dimension.

I will continue. The fact is that at some point we discovered that there is a canon, stories about the war. School canon, university canon. The treacherous attack on June 22. And so on, and so on. Despite the fact that the war was not domestic, it was world. Domestic was part of this war. And in the world war, in World War II, there are a huge number of brightest figures, which we have heard of, that is, the ear knows. Here's Chiang Kai-shek. Everyone knows. But what about Chiang Kai-shek? How Chiang Kai-shek? Why Chiang Kai-shek? When was he ours? When was he not ours? When not ours? Why did he come to Moscow, like our question, right? And so on. Few people know. We tell about it in the book. We tell about Mao

Zedong. Mao Zedong is also known all over the world. And what did Mao Zedong do during World War II? Who can say right away?

By the way, excuse me, I'll interrupt you.

Who can say right away?

By the way, excuse me, I'll interrupt you.

Who can say right away?

According to the Chinese version of the world war, the Second World War, it did not begin in 1939, but in 1937.

In 1937.

In 1937, with the war between China and Japan.

Or, for example, Marshal Harris. By the way, Marshal Harris is the creator of the carpet bombing of German cities. All those burned industrial centers of Germany.

Well, Dresden first.

Dresden, Munich, Cologne, and others. That was Marshal Harris. That is, he is the person who destroyed the industrial power of Nazi Germany along with the civilian population. Therefore, he has a very controversial reputation. On the one hand, he is a hero for destroying, but on the other hand, he burned several hundred thousand civilians, as we would say today. We also talk about him. Or, for example, Hirohito. It's good that there is Alexander Sokurov's film "The Sun" about this emperor. But it's a very interesting story.

Extremely.

What role did the Emperor of Japan play, a largely symbolic figure in militaristic Japan?

Both in post-war and in post-war Japan.

And exactly your question, why there are few Russians. In fact, the Soviet Union appears in every chapter of our book.

Of course.

For example, when we talk about Mannerheim, we also talk about the Soviet Union. When we talk about Eisenhower, who was the commander-in-chief during the war and later became president, we certainly cannot fail to talk about how his relations with the Soviet command developed.

And how they divided the zones of influence in Germany when it was already occupied.

And when you talk about Hirohito, you talk about the Soviet member Yeliseyev, who indirectly influenced the choice of targets.

And when we talk about Chiang Kai-shek, we certainly say that Stalin's policy towards Chiang Kai-shek was not so straightforward. There was a game both with Mao Zedong and with the Kuomintang. Therefore, the Soviet Union runs like a red thread throughout the book.

Undoubtedly. It seems to me that the appearance of Hirohito is also important because we have such a Eurocentric view of the war. We generally have such a concept of the war that...

Not also Russia-centric? Soviet-centric?

Yes. From where? That everything happened only in Europe, and the main thing, of course, is on this Eastern Front, on the Soviet-German front. And we absolutely, when I say we, I mean, of course, the broad masses of the working people, know very little about the Pacific theater of operations. About where America fought. We all... There, people love to blame America for everything.

In the four percent of Lend-Lease.

Well, yes, and we didn't need Lend-Lease, and we would have won without Lend-Lease, and in general, and in general. And in general, they had few casualties. This is the main reproach. They had few casualties. But at the same time, few remember and know that for America the main theater of operations was the Pacific. There was the war. It was the American war, not in Europe. That is, Europe too, without a doubt.

Well, by the way, you describe quite in detail in connection with Eisenhower the army in Sicily.

Well, of course.

And the first landings in Europe in 1942.

Of course, without a doubt. Or, for example, we have a chapter "Arabs in World War II". Who knows anything about this? In general, it is extremely interesting because it was during World War II that special relations between Americans and Arabs were established. And much of what determines world politics today grows from there. Therefore, our approach was to tell through faces.

Well, and by the way, Nasser largely comes from there.

Of course. And how many pro-fascist leaders of the Arab world were there.

So, our approach was to tell the Russian reader through portraits of people, situations, nations the history of the war, which is little known to us. And to show that the war was much more interesting, diverse, broader than our classic school or university colleagues tell. That is the point.

In the long-awaited answer to the second question, I will ask our super game question. And while you prepare for the next question, which is related to these somewhat out-of-line diaries of Lieutenant Gelfand, what is special about this document? And why did you include them along with, in general, political and military leaders? Please tell me, the diaries of Lieutenant Gelfand. What kind of special document is this?

Listen, it's really nothing special. We have from time to time...

Of course, our main heroes, let's start from the other side. Of course, the main heroes of our cycle over the past 13 years are politicians and military leaders. They are the main heroes of military operations, diplomatic operations. These are the main events that we consider in one way or another and talk about. We are very pleased when there are testimonies of people who simply went through the war and saw the war not from a ceremonial perspective, but from the inside. You know, if Astafyev were alive, it would be my dream to invite him to this program.

Granin was with us.

Daniil Granin was there, as someone who went through the war. Georgy Shmirsky told about the military mass.

But these are well-known people. And there were unknown people who did not have the same reputation as Granin, even Shmirsky. And Oleg Budnitsky, Oleg Vitalievich Budnitsky, got these diaries of this man into his hands. What was his name, Gelfand?

I'll check now.

Well, it doesn't matter.

He went through the entire war and wrote diaries every day. Moreover, it was forbidden at the front.

Exactly!

Exactly! That's the point! And he wrote everything in detail and meticulously.

It was forbidden to keep diaries at the front and to record everything that happens. And he really wrote everything down in detail and meticulously.

Everything he saw.

Exactly what he saw. What he wrote about.

Vladimir Gelfand. Yes. Vladimir.

Vladimir Gelfand.

So. And thanks to these memories, these diaries...

This is a real chronicle.

This is a real chronicle of the war through diary entries. Quite an emotionless record. It is difficult to understand his position. Stalinist or anti-Stalinist.

Well, just what was, he wrote.

He wrote quite, excuse me for this word, quite bluntly, what he saw. And from this point of view, it is interesting.

This is a fantastic source.

For example, he writes about the spring of 1945, when they were already in Germany, about his romances with German women, about everyday life, how supplies were organized, how life was organized. This is invaluable information.

As far as I know, according to Budnitsky's testimony, if I'm not mistaken, his son lives in Germany. The book has been published or is about to be published. I think it will be successful and interesting.

A genuine historical testimony with many details.

Strangely, there are not so many of them. You would think that millions of people went through the war.

That is, war as everyday life.

There are many memoirs, but they are already strongly...

He writes: April 8, 1945, sunny day, the commander called me in the morning, ordered: go there for potatoes. And so the man really recorded what happened.

What he saw.

And in this sense, the value of this document is incredible. Because it is genuine...

Tomorrow at 19:00 at the Historical Museum on Red Square, house 1, Vitaly Dymarsky and Vladimir Ryzhkov together with Sergei Butman at the Dilettante readings. There they promised to start selling the book we talked about today. I thank my guests for participating in today's broadcast. All the best.

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