



Jaakko Myllylä

- ❑ Born October 29th, 1914 in Helsinki
- ❑ Died December 17th, 1939 in Summa (nowadays in Russia, c. 45 km South-East from border of Finland)

Jaakko as child

- Third child of Hannes Myllylä (managing director) and Auli Myllylä (daughter of Joutsiniemi manor house)
- Close relationship to his older sisters Kerttu and Tellervo



His teacher taught him to be daring

- This teacher admired an old book called "Vänrikki Stoolin tarinat" very much.
- In this book the basic idea is, that a soldier should be very brave, and never feel any fear.
- He told the students always to love this book, and live according to it.
- This made a great influence on Jaakko, and he told his sister Tellervo that he will never feel any fear, and he is ready to die for his country.



Young Jaakko Myllylä: motorcycling and hunting

❑ As a young man his hobbies were motor cycling and hunting

❑ Jaakko was just 25 years old, when the Soviet Union attacked Finland.



Young Jaakko Myllylä: graduated fast, worked in the University

- Graduated 1938 in agronomy, studied the degree in five years
- Before the war he obtained the rank of second lieutenant in the obligatory military service
- Had several positions of trust in the Students' Union
- Worked as a consultant for Työteho-seura
- Made a professional study trip to Central Europe
- Worked as a tutor in the University

Winter war of Finland: West

European countries admired Finland

- Germany attacked Poland in September 1939
- There was a secret agreement between Molotov, foreign minister of the Soviet Union and Ribbentrop, foreign minister of Germany, where the Baltic countries and Finland were given to the Soviet Union. On the basis of this the Soviet Union attacked Finland on November 30th, 1939. That was the beginning of the Winter War.
- At that time there was no war in Western Europe, and people e.g. in France followed very closely the war in Finland. It was expected, that the Soviet Union will occupy Finland in two weeks.
- Thus West Europeans admired very much Finland, because c. 250 thousand soldiers could fight against the huge army of the Soviet Union. Finland had e.g. only 13 tanks and 114 airplanes, and the Soviet Union was attacking with 2000 tanks and 1000 airplanes. Despite this, the Soviet Union could not occupy Finland, and peace was made after 105 days of fighting.
- When Kerttu, Tellervo and Martti visited Paris after the war, the hotel owner wanted to offer them fine red wine, because "Finnish soldiers were so brave"

Archive pictures of Winter War



Archive pictures of Winter War



War of Jaakko, December 5th – 9th.

Temperature lowest -21 °C, highest - 7 °C

- Second lieutenant Jaakko had Erkki Kirkkola as his courier, and they always worked together.
- Jaakko was very enthusiastic about his task, and was always reading winter war instructions in the evenings. First contact with the enemy was on December 5th. The strength of the enemy was 2000, and the strength of the group of Jaakko only 114.
- Jaakko and Erkki were on patrol 18-20 hours per day. When on the enemy's side, Jaakko walked always as the first of the patrol. Despite the very long days, he never complained.

War of Jaakko, December 10th

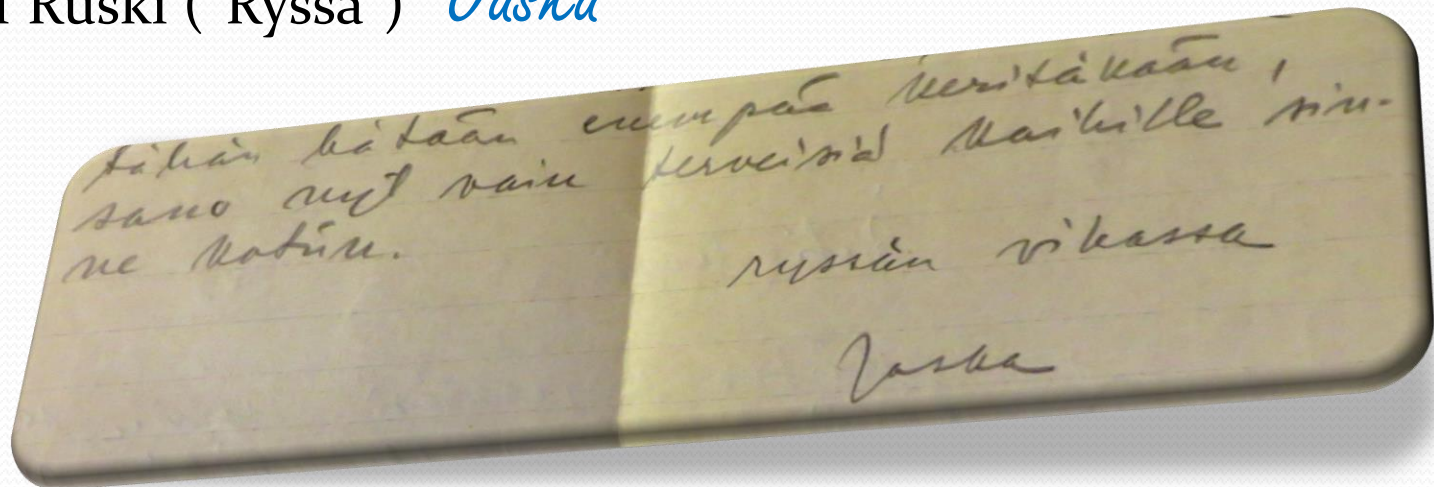
Temperature low -14 °C, high -10 °C

- Jaakko and his group was ordered to enter the enemy's side. In the battle no one was killed or injured in the Finnish group, but they killed 20 enemy soldiers.
- When returning back there was a very dangerous situation, where two machine guns were shooting Jaakko and Erkki when they were crawling back through the barbed wire barrier. They had to lie at three minutes in fire, and Erkki told, that these were the longest minutes in his life.

Summary of the letter to home, Dec. 10th

- Dear mother, it would be safest for you and father to go to Kiehelä.
- I am rather busy fighting. You can be sure, that we will win – just arrange your life according to that. I believe, that this war will not last long.
- This is very hard time for me, but my condition and endurance are excellent.
- It would be nice, if you could send me a pair of woolen gloves – maybe also some apples. Please tell aunt Laila my best thanks for the parcel. Best regards to everyone there.

In hate of Ruski ("Ryssä") *Jaska*



War of Jaakko, December 16th

Temperature low -7 °C, high -3 °C

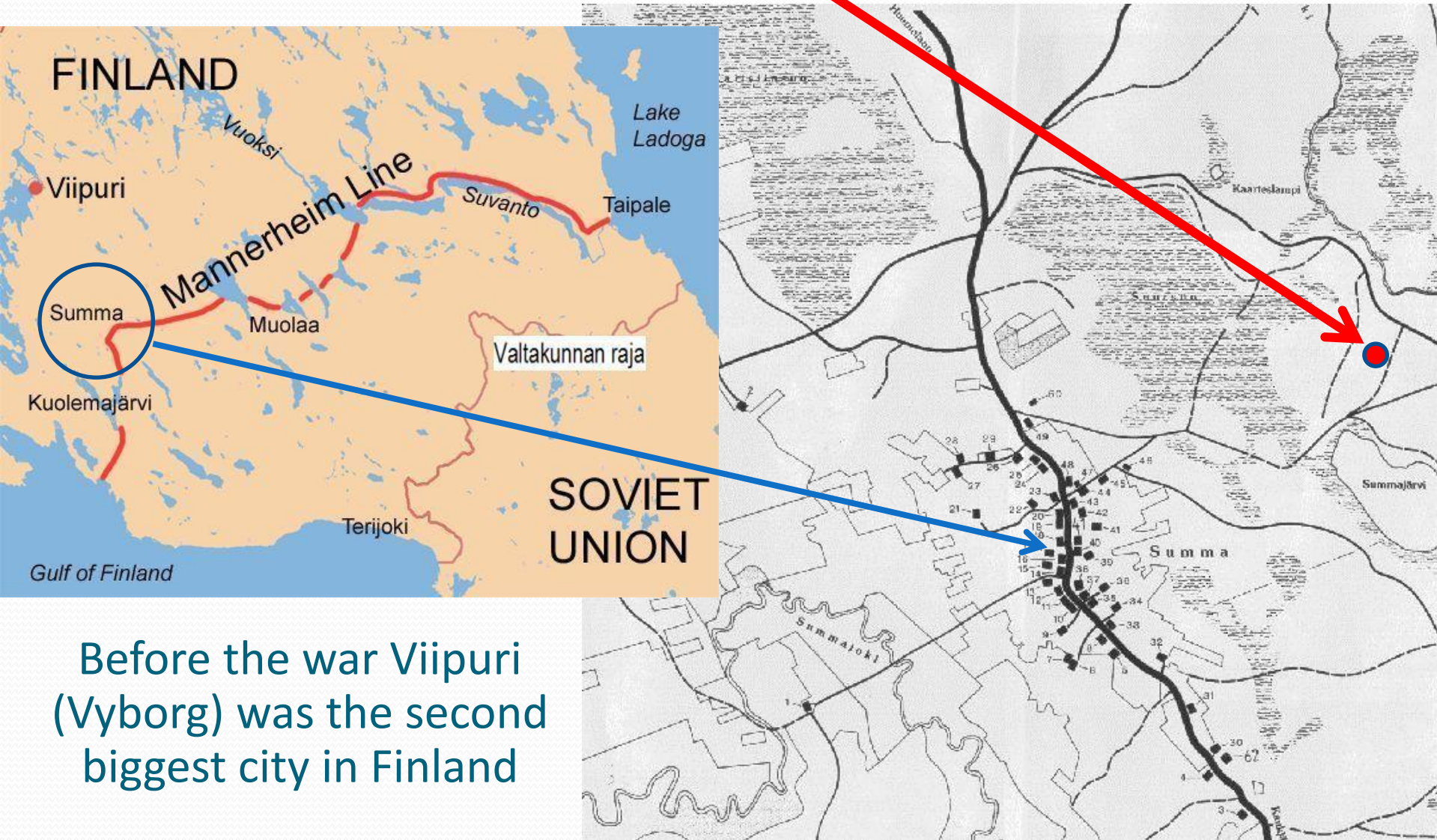
- Jaakko was ordered to make a hole to the barbed wire barrier, in preparations for the attack to be made later.
- Jaakko and Erkki took cutting tools, crawled to barbed wire barrier and worked for 20 minutes to make that hole, and the whole time the enemy was continuously shooting at them.
- When they finally was ready and crawled back to their own side, they were told that the attack was cancelled. Thus their very dangerous work was useless.

Last day of Jaakko, December 17th

Temperature low -4 °C, high +3 °C

- Several tanks of the enemy entered the side of Jaakko's group, and were driving on the edge of the trench. The trench was empty of Finnish soldiers, but some Soviet soldiers were walking there.
- Jaakko ordered some of his men into the position, but one tank was obstructing his men from taking proper positions. So Jaakko took a big explosive, and entered the trench in order to destroy the tank.
- Together with Erkki he entered c. 30 meter distance to the tank, and chose then another trench in order to get closer. At the turn of this trench Jaakko looked at the enemy soldiers and said: "I wish I had a rifle". These were his last words; three bullets shot by a machine gun of the tank hit his head, and he died immediately.

Place, where Jaakko died.



Before the war Viipuri (Vyborg) was the second biggest city in Finland

Typical enemy tanks in the Winter war



Coffin of Jaakko in Kiehelä, starting the journey to the cemetery



Jaakko is buried in Kangasala soldier's cemetery

