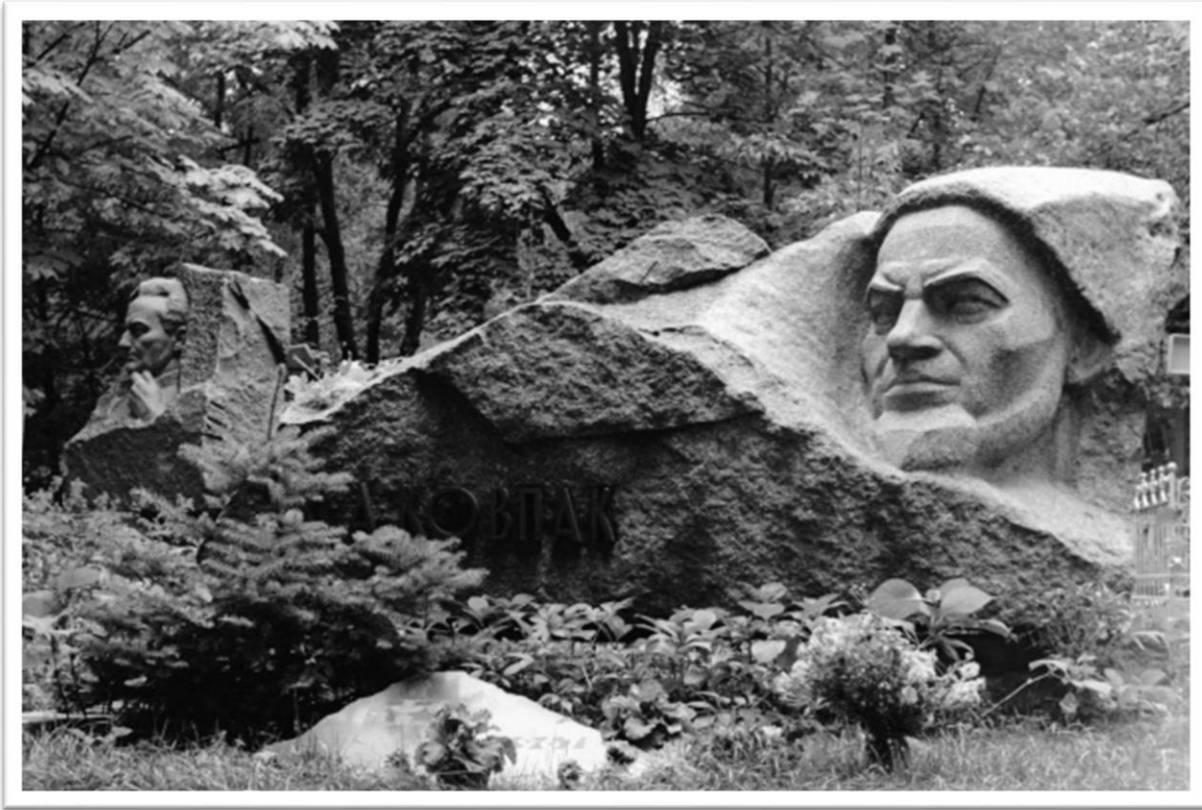


How Sidor Kovpak created a guerrilla army

http://www.aif.ru/society/history/ded_kotorogo_boyalsya_gitler_kak_sidor_kovpak_sozdal_partizanskuyu_armiyu

- At Baykovoye cemetery in Kiev, a man who has become a legend during his lifetime sleeps, a man whose name horrified the Nazis- **Sidor Artemyevich Kovpak** .



Monument to Sidor Kovpak in Kiev. Photo: [RIA Novosti](#)

He was born June 7, 1887 in Poltava, in a large peasant family. Each kopeck was on the account, and instead of school, Sidor learned the skills of a shepherd and a farmer from a young age.

At the age of 10 he began to help the family, working in a shop with a local merchant. A smart, smart, observant "the lad will go far away," the village aksakals, wise with experience of everyday life, talked about him.

In 1908, Sidor was drafted into the army, and after four years of service he went to Saratov, where he settled down as a handyman.

From the Emperor to Vasily Ivanovich

- But only two years later, Sidor Kovpak again found himself in a soldier's order - the First World War began.

Private soldier of 186th Aslanduzsky Infantry Regiment Sidor Kovpak was a brave warrior. After being injured several times, he always returned to service. In 1916, as a scout, Kovpak particularly distinguished himself during the Brusilov breakthrough. By his exploits, he deserved two St. George's Cross, which he was given by **Emperor Nicholas II** .

Probably, here the tsar-father a little got excited - in 1917 Kovpak chose not him, but Bolsheviks. Returning after the October Revolution to his homeland, Kovpak discovered that the war was following him on the heels - the Reds and the

Whites had converged on life and death. And here Kovpak assembled his first partisan detachment, with which the Denikinists began to raid, and at the same time, according to old memory, and the Germans who occupied Ukraine. In 1919, the detachment of Kovpak joined the regular Red Army, and he himself joined the ranks of the Bolshevik Party.

But at the front, Kovpak did not immediately hit - he was thrown down by typhus raging in a half-ruined country. He climbs out of the clutches of the disease, he still goes to war and finds himself in the ranks of the 25th Division, commanded by **Vasily Ivanovich Chapayev himself**. The commander of the Chapaev trophy team Sidor Kovpak was already famous for his diligence and thrift - he was able to collect weapons on the battlefield not only after victories, but also after unsuccessful battles, hitting the enemy with such impudence.



[This Chapaev. The legendary commander did not become a general, but he became his son](#)

Kovpak took Perekop, finished the remnants of Wrangel's army in the Crimea, liquidated the Makhnovist gangs, and in 1921 was appointed to the post of military commissar in the Great Tokmak. Having replaced several other similar posts, in 1926 he was forced to demobilize.

In partisans - with kitchen gardens

- No, Kovpak was not tired of the war, but he was let down by health-worried about old wounds, tormented by rheumatism earned in the partisan detachment.

And Kovpak moved to economic activity. Let him lack education, but he had the vein of a strong business executive, observation and ingenuity.

Beginning in 1926 as chairman of an agricultural artel in the village of Verbky, Kovpak came to the post of chairman of the Putivl City Executive Committee of the Sumy region of the Ukrainian SSR 11 years later.

By the beginning of the Great Patriotic War, Sidor Kovpak was 54 years old. Not so much, but not so little for a man whose whole life was connected with war and heavy peasant labor.



[Doomed to the feat: what did the guerrillas do for the Victory?](#)

But Kovpak knew how to forget about age and sores at a difficult moment. He undertook all the organizational work to create a partisan detachment in the Putivl area. There was very little time for the organization - the enemy was approaching swiftly, but Kovpak was busy preparing bases and caches until the last.

From Putivl, he left the garden almost the last of the leadership September 10, 1941, the moment when the German parts have already appeared in the village.

Very many partisan detachments were killed at the very beginning of the war, because their leaders were simply not prepared for such activities. There were also some who, having laid bases, preferred to hide for fear, hide, but not to fight.

But Kovpak was completely different. Behind them is a huge military experience, combined with the experience of a talented business executive. In just a few days Kovpak, from the Putivl activists and reconnaissance militants who went with him to the forest, created the nucleus of the future detachment.

Power from the forest

- September 29, 1941 near the village of Safonovka detachment Sidor Kovpak conducted the first military operation, destroying Hitler's truck. The Germans sent a group to destroy the partisans, but she returned with nothing.

October 17, 1941, when the Nazis were already on the outskirts of Moscow, in the Ukrainian forests, the detachment of Kovpak teamed up with the detachment of **Semyon Rudnev**, a career soldier, participant in the battles with the Japanese militarists in the Far East.



- **Kovpak** (sitting on the left) reads the cipher to the partisans from the Big Land. Commissar of the detachment SV
- **Rudnev** (sitting on the right), 1942. Photo: [RIA Novosti](https://ria.ru)

They appreciated each other's grasp and respect. They did not compete for leadership - Kovpak became the commander, and Rudnev took the post of commissioner. This administrative "tandem" very soon made the Nazis shudder with horror.

- **Kovpak** and Rudnev continued to unite the small partisan groups into a single Putivl partisan detachment. Somehow, at a meeting of the commanders of such groups, punitive men with two tanks appeared directly into the forest. The Nazis still believed that the guerrillas were not serious. The result of the partisans' battle was the rout of the punishers and the seizure of one of the tanks as a trophy.

The main difference between the detachment of Kovpak and many other guerrilla units was, paradoxically, the almost complete absence of guerrilla warfare. Kovpakovsky was dominated by iron discipline, each group knew its maneuver

and actions when the enemy suddenly attacked. Kovpak was a real ace of secretive movement, unexpectedly for the Nazis appearing here and there, disorienting the enemy, causing lightning and crushing blows.

At the end of November 1941, the Hitlerite command felt that it practically had no control over the area of Putivl. Loud actions of partisans changed the attitude of the local population, which began to look at the invaders almost with a mockery - they say, are you in power here? The real power is in the forest!



Sidor Kovpak (center) discussing the details of the military operation with the commanders of the detachments, 1942.
Photo: [RIA Novosti](#) / L. Korobov

Kovpak is coming!

- The irritated Germans blocked the Spadashchansky Forest, which became the main base of the partisans, and threw large forces into their rout. Assessing the situation, Kovpak decided to break out of the forest and go into the raid.

The guerrilla unit of Kovpak was rapidly growing. When he was fighting along the enemy's rear in the Sumy, Kursk, Orel and Bryansk regions, more and more groups joined him. The formation of Kovpak turned into a real partisan army.

May 18, 1942 Sidor Kovpak was awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

In August 1942, Kovpak, along with the commanders of other partisan formations, was received in the Kremlin, where **Stalin** asked about problems and needs. New combat missions were also identified.

The Kovpak connection was given the task to go to the Right-Bank Ukraine with the aim of expanding the zone of guerrilla action.

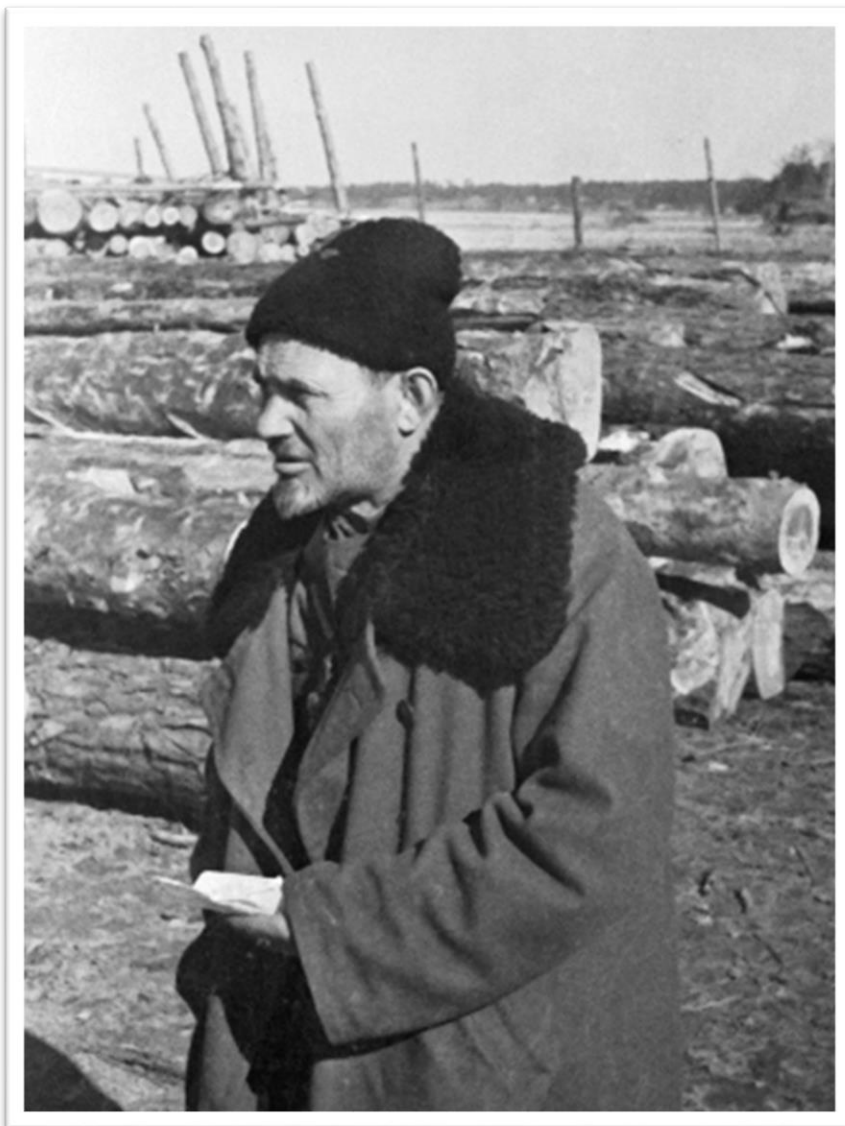
From the Bryansk forests Kovpak guerrillas fought several thousand kilometers along the Gomel, Pinsk, Volyn, Rivne, Zhytomyr and Kiev regions. Ahead of them, the partisan glory was already rolling, growing old with legends. It was said

that Kovpak himself is a huge bearded strong man, killing a fist 10 fascists at a time, that tanks, cannons, planes and even Katyushas are at his disposal, and that **Hitler** personally is afraid of him.

• **Sidor Kovpak** examines a new springboard, 1943. Photo: [RIA Novosti](#) / L. Korobov

Hitler is not Hitler, but the Nazis were less afraid of a caliber. On the politsev and the German garrisons, the news "Kovpak Goes!" Acted demoralizingly. From the meeting with his partisans tried to evade any way, for it did not bode well.

In April 1943, Sidor Kovpak was given the Rank of "Major-General". So the guerrilla army had a real General.



The most difficult raid

• Those who met the legend in real life were amazed - a small old man with a beard, like a village grandfather with flails (the partisans called his commander - Ded), seemed absolutely peaceful and in no way resembled the genius of guerrilla warfare.

Kovpak remembered his soldiers a whole series of sayings, which became winged. While developing the plan for a new operation, he repeated: "Before you go into God's temple, think about how to get out of it." About providing the connection with all necessary laconically and a bit mockingly said: "My supplier is Hitler."

Indeed, Kovpak never bothered Moscow with requests for additional supplies, extracting weapons, ammunition, fuel, food and clothing from Hitler's warehouses.

In 1943, the Sumy guerrilla unit of Sidor Kovpak went to his most difficult, Carpathian raid. From the song you can not throw out the words - in those parts there were many who were completely satisfied with the power of the Hitlerites, who was glad to hang the "Jews" under their wing and rip up the bellies to the Polish children. Of course, Kovpak for the likes was not the "hero of the novel." During the Carpathian raid, not only many Hitler garrisons were defeated, but also Banderov's troops.

The fighting was heavy, and sometimes the position of the partisans seemed hopeless. In the Carpathian raid, Kovpak's connection suffered the most serious losses. Among the dead were veterans who were at the source of the detachment, including Commissioner Semyon Rudnev.

Living legend

- But still Kovpak's connection returned from the raid. Already on his return it became known that Kovpak himself was seriously wounded, but he hid it from his men.

The Kremlin decided that it would be impossible to further risk the life of the hero - Kovpak was recalled for treatment to the Greater Land. In January 1944, the Sumy guerrilla unit was renamed the 1st Ukrainian Partisan Division named after Sidor Kovpak. The command of the division was taken by one of the colleagues of Kovpak, **Peter Vershigora** . In 1944, the division committed two more large-scale raids - Polish and Neman. In July 1944 in Byelorussia, the partisan division, which never managed to defeat the fascists, joined forces with the Red Army.

In January 1944, for the successful conduct of the Carpathian raid, Sidor Kovpak was secondarily awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.



- **Sidor Kovpak**, 1954 Photo: [RIA Novosti](#)

Having healed wounds, Sidor Kovpak came to Kiev, where he was waiting for a new job - he became a member of the Supreme Court of the Ukrainian SSR. Probably, the other would be blamed for the lack of education, but Kovpak was trusted both by the authorities and the common people - he earned this trust with his whole life.

In 2012, under **Viktor Yanukovich** , the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, at the suggestion of the Communists, adopted a resolution on the celebration of the 125th anniversary of the birth of Sidor Artemievich Kovpak. Then even Kovpak remained a hero for Ukraine.

What would Sidor Artemyevitch say if he saw what has now become his native Ukraine? Probably, I would not say anything. A lot of people who saw in their time, Grandfather, groaning, just went to the side of the forest. And then ... Then you know.

הטקטיקה של תנועת הפרטיזנים של קובפק זכתה להכרה רחבה מעבר לגבולות ברית המועצות. תנועות הגרילה מאנגולה, רודזיה ומוזמביק, מפקדי השדה והווייטנאמים המהפכנים ממדינות אמריקה הלטינית השונות למדו על דוגמאות הפשיטות של קובפק.

ב-1975, באולפן הסרטים א. דובז'נקו הופקה טרילוגייה על הפארטיזנים של קובפק בשם "הדומא של קובפק".

בשנת 1971 ניתן השם "[סידור קובפק](#)" לספינה שנבנתה על ידי [מספנת חרסון](#). [2] בשנת 1987 הונפק ברית המועצות [בול דואר](#) עם דמותו של קובפק.

לפני חגיגת יום השנה ה-70 לתנועה הפרטיזנית באוקראינה, ב-2011 צילם ערוץ הטלוויזיה עידן ואולפן "פאטריק" סרט דוקומנטרי ובו העלו הרהור תיעודי על סידור ארטמביץ' קובפק "[שמו היה DED](#)".

8 ביוני 2012. הבנק הלאומי של אוקראינה הוציא מטבע הנצחה עם דמותו של קובפק.

פרוטומה ארד של גיבור ברית המועצות, סידור ארטיימוביץ' קובפק, מותקנת בכפר קוטלבה. ולוחות זיכרון נמצאים בפוטיבל ובקייב. על שמו נקראו רחובות בערים וכפרים רבים באוקראינה. ישנם מספר מוזיאונים המוקדשים לסידור Artemovich באוקראינה וברוסיה. הגדול שבהם ממוקם בעיר, Glukhov באזור סומי.

(מתוך https://ru.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ковпак,_Сидор_Арте́мьевич)

SURZHIK D.V., המכון להיסטוריה כללית של האקדמיה הרוסית למדעים [/http://100.histrf.ru/commanders/kovpak-sidor-artemevich](http://100.histrf.ru/commanders/kovpak-sidor-artemevich)

הוצאת מערכות של צה"ל הוציאה לאור, בשנת 1953, תרגום של ספרו של פטרו ורשיגורה "מסעות קובפק". את ההקדמה לספר כתב ב. אביזריהו.

Museum Hero of the Soviet Union S.A. Kovpak

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🇺🇦 Ukraine 🇸🇺 Sumy 🇺🇦 Glukhov



GEEN BRUIKBARE FOTO BESCHIKBAAR

NO USABLE PICTURE AVAILABLE

Als u foto's heeft, kunt u deze sturen naar input@tracesofwar.com

If you have photos, please send them to input@tracesofwar.com

This small museum is dedicated to the life of twice Hero of the Soviet Union Major General and vice-deputy of the Supreme Soviet Sydir A. Kovpak. Kovpak, a WW1 veteran, was a senior partisan commander during the Second World War.

For current visiting hours, please visit the [website](#) of the museum.

Do you have more information about this location? [Inform us!](#)

Source

- Text: Kaj Metz

📅 First World War (1914-1918)

📅 Second World War (1939-1945)