

# Monuments of the First World War in Russia

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# Monument to the Ingush Equestrian Regiment of the "Wild Division"





# “Wild Division”

The wild division consisted mainly of volunteers, because according to the law of the Russian Empire, the Muslim population of the Caucasus and Central Asia was not subject to conscription for military service. But this did not prevent it from becoming one of the most unique military units in the history of Russian military affairs.





By September 1914, the formation of the division was over. In October, it was delivered by echelons to the Podolsk province, and after the show in St. Petersburg sent to the front. At that time, terrible rumors stirred the Austro-Hungarian Empire, a soldier in the trenches and residents of the front-line cities.



# The eagles of the Caucasus

From the depths of Asia, the Russians lead some kind of unknown power - a horde of horsemen: they have black and white wings behind their shoulders, they eat babies and they are really scary people ... Europe has never seen anything like this. Soon, the Austrians and Germans would call them "devils in shaggy hats," and the Russian tsar - "the eagles of the Caucasus"



# The commander of the Division

There was no shortage of volunteers. For example, the riders of the Tatar Equestrian Regiment, in which the Azerbaijanis served, were more than 2,000 people, although only 400 were needed. By the highest order, the younger brother of the tsar, Major-General Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich, was appointed commander of the Wild Division in 1914. The Highlanders were proud of the fact that they were commanded by the brother of the tsar, who also was known as a magnificent rider and cavalryman.





# The feats of the division

In history, many feats of the Wild Division soldiers was saved. For example, a ferry across the Dniester of the Chechen squad, which immediately took up a bridgehead, capturing 250 Austrians and Hungarians. This bridgehead will later play an important role in the course of the famous Brusilovsky breakthrough, and the entire squad will later be awarded the Emperor George Cross.





Especially vividly described by contemporaries is the feat of the Ingush regiment, who attacked the famous Kaiser's Iron Division, which aroused fear on the troops of the British and French. In this battle, held July 15, 1916, 3,000 German bayonets, machine guns and heavy artillery confronted 500 sabers of the Caucasian mountaineers. But, despite such superiority of the enemy, the Ingush threw themselves into a frontal attack, and in an hour and a half the pride of the Kaiser's army ceased to exist.





The monument is a composition of three horsemen. At the head of the attacking cavalry group is the commander of the division, Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich, brother of Tsar Nicholas II; behind him - the commander of the Ingush horse regiment, Colonel Georgy Merchule, the third horseman - Colonel Aslambek Kotiev. The monument symbolizes the spirit of brotherhood and the courage of the riders of the "Wild Division", in particular the Ingush Regiment. It was opened in June 9, 2012. This is the first monument in Russia, dedicated to the Wild Division.

**Thank You for  
Attention!**