Russian Who Fought With French Resistance Reported Dead at 95

December 08, 2014

Nikolai Vasenin walking in Paris with his great-grandson last summer.

MOSCOW — Nikolai Vasenin, a Russian who fought in the French resistance during World War II, died on Sunday at age 95, the TASS news agency reported.

Vasenin had been hospitalized in intensive care since Dec. 1 in Berezovsky, a town near the Urals city of Yekaterinburg, the agency reported, citing a hospital official. No cause of death was given.

A documentary film about Vasenin is scheduled to premiere in May as part of celebrations for the 70th anniversary of Victory Day.

Vasenin was captured by Nazi German troops shortly after their 1941 invasion of the Soviet Union and sent to a camp in France, but he managed to escape and joined the resistance fighters. By the end of the war, he had become the commander of his own unit.

When the war was over, he returned to the Soviet Union, but instead of being greeted as a war

hero he was sent to a labor camp for 15 years. This was a fate shared by many Soviet soldiers who had fallen into enemy hands and as a result were seen by dictator Josef Stalin as potential traitors.

In an interview in October about the upcoming documentary, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said all veterans who fought against the Nazis should be honored equally.

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