

In Photos: Everyday Life in Postwar Leningrad

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These photographs of Leningrad, or present-day St. Petersburg, depict life for everyday Soviet citizens in 1946–1948: from builders working at St. Isaac’s Cathedral to a woman wiping a showpiece in the Hermitage museum and a seaman holding the hand of his beloved. By looking at these photos, taken from the Harvard University archive, one would hardly guess that the Siege of Leningrad had ended just two years earlier. Lasting 871 days (Sept. 8, 1941–Jan. 27, 1944), the siege killed at least 630,000 people and left the city in ruins after relentless bombings by Nazi forces. Here's a look at Leningrad’s resurgence after two years of unspeakable hardship:



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