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Alexander Peresvet

Alexander Peresvet – also spelled **Peresviet** (Russian: Александр Пересвет, d. 8 September 1380) – was a Russian Orthodox monk who fought in a single combat with the Tatar champion Temir-murza (known in most Russian sources as Chelubey or Chelibey) at the opening of the Battle of Kulikovo (8 September 1380). The two men killed each other.^[1]

Peresvet is believed to have hailed from the Bryansk area and to have taken the monastic habit at the Rostov Monastery of Saints Boris and Gleb. He moved to the Monastery of Pereslavl-Zalessky, in the service of Dmitry Donskoy. He later moved to the Trinity Lavra where he became a follower of Sergius of Radonezh. Alexander and his friend Rodion Oslyabya joined the Russian troops set out to fight the Tatars under the leadership of Mamai.

The battle of Kulikovo was opened by single combat between the two champions. The Russian champion was Alexander Peresvet. The champion of the Golden Horde was Temir-murza. The champions killed each other in the first charge. According to a Russian legend, Peresvet did not fall from the saddle, while Temir-murza did.

Peresvet's body, together with that of his brother-in-arms Oslyabya, was brought to Moscow. The two men were buried at the 15th-century Theotokos Church in Simonov Monastery.

Commemoration

- Pereswetoff-Morath, a bayor (Russo-Swedish nobility) family, claimed to be descendants of Peresvet.
- The Russian *Peresvet* battleship class, ships of which saw action in the Russo-Japanese War
- A Volga boat is named *Alexander Peresvet*
- The town of Peresvet near Moscow
- A fast train running between Moscow and St. Petersburg since 2003.
- 33rd Special purpose unit of Internal Troops
- Russian military laser 'Peresvet' named so after a 2018 'name that weapon' vote

References

In Russian Language

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A single combat of Peresvet against Chelubei before the Battle of Kulikovo (Viktor Vasnetsov, 1914)

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MV *Alexander Peresvet* carrying the holy relics of Venerable Macarius stops in Kstovo, on its way from Nizhny Novgorod to Makaryev Monastery

Notes

1. "Alexander Peresvet and Temir-Murza Once Again Duel on Kulikovo Field" (<https://ruskiymir.ru/en/news/129846/>). *ruskiymir.ru*. Retrieved 2021-09-19.

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