

Elena Kozhena was a small girl when her family fled the siege of Leningrad. Between September 1941 and January 1944 around 800 000 lost their lives there. That's a higher number of civilian casualties than those from the whole of the United States and the United Kingdom combined. More on Elena a little later...

I am sure that you, like me, feel the darkness of these past two weeks. Familiar, everyday comforts are finely woven with a sharpened awareness, the knowledge that for too many others *everything* has been snatched away. Life feels precarious. Whatever we think, say or do to shield ourselves doesn't quite work.

