

# THE CHRONICLE OF NOVGOROD

1016-1471

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# Кто против Бога и Великаго Новгорода?



# Ледовое побоище (Battle on the Ice)

5 April 1242, Lake Peipus (between Estonia and Russia)

#### **Belligerents**

- Novgorod Republic
- Grand Duchy of Vladimir
- Pskov Republic

# Livonian Order

- Bishopric of Dorpat
  - Kingdom of Denmark

#### **Commanders and leaders**

- Saint Alexander Nevsky (1221-1263)
  - Andrey II Yaroslavich (1222-1264)



Herman von Buxhövden of Dorpat

#### Strength

5,000 (1,600 cavalry and 3,400 infantry):

- Alexander and Andre's druzhina 1,000
- Horse archers 600
- Novgorod militia 2,000
- Finno-Ugrian tribesmen 1,400

2,600

- Knights (900):
- Teutonic, 100; Danish and German, 800
- Infantry (1,700):
  - Danes, 300; Germans, 400; Estonian, 1,000

#### **Casualties**

Estimated 200 (4% casualties)

Novgorod First Chronicle: (>17% casualties)

- 400 Germans killed
- 50 Germans imprisoned
- "Countless" Estonian auxiliaries killed

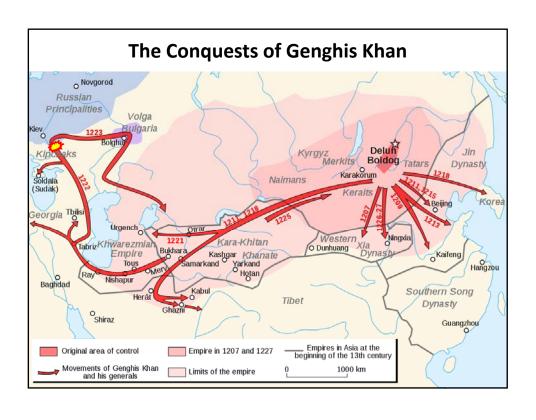
## **Mongol Hordes**

"Because for our sins God has brought wild beasts out of the desert to eat the flesh of the strong, and to drink the blood of the Boyars."



## **Genghis Khan**

- Mongol leader Genghis Khan (1162-1227) rose from humble beginnings to establish the largest land empire in history. After uniting the nomadic tribes of the Mongolian plateau, he conquered huge chunks of central Asia and China. His descendants expanded the empire even further, advancing to such far-off places as Poland, Vietnam, Syria and Korea.
- A ruthless conqueror, Genghis Khan offered cities and armies the option of surrender or death – a death which was promised to be horrible.
- To those who surrendered and tithed 10% (including any beautiful women) he granted autonomy, religious freedom, no torture, free trade and the first international postal system.
- Genghis Khan died in 1227 during a military campaign against the Chinese kingdom of Xi Xia. His final resting place remains unknown.



### The Golden Horde and Pax Mongolica

◆ The Golden Horde were settled Mongols who ruled over Kievan Rus' (Russia), Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Moldova, and the Caucasus from ~1240 until 1502. When the Mongol Empire fragmented after 1259, it became a separate khanate.



- As Genghis Khan was dying in 1227, he divided his empire into four parts, one for each son. Grandson Batu inherited the part of his father Jochi, who had died six months earlier.
- By 1360, Batu's brother Berke Khan conquered Poland and Lithuania and was close to defeating the Teutonic Knights. The king of Hungary bowed before him and he demanded submission of Louis IX. But Europe was saved by internal Mongol dynastic squabbles.
- Tamerlane defeated the Horde in 1395-6 and appointed his own khan. In 1480, Ivan III (the Terrible) drove the Horde from Moscow and in 1502 the Ottoman Crimean Khanate sacked Sarai.

#### Hermann von Buxhövden, Prince-Bishop of Dorpat

 Hermann of Dorpat (Hermann I) (1163–1248) was the first Prince-Bishop of the Bishopric of Dorpat (1224–1248) within the Livonian Confederation.



Hermann hailed from Bexhövede in Saxony. His brother Bishop Albert of Riga used his influence against King Valdemar II of Denmark to place the Livonian Brothers of the Sword in medieval Estonia.

- Hermann founded the cathedral of Tartu (Dorpat) and led the crusaders in the 1242 Battle of the Ice.
- Hermann was the progenitor of the House of Buxhoeveden, a Baltic German family whose members entered Prussian, Swedish, and Russian service.



## **Prince Alexander Yaroslavich Nevsky**

Alexander Nevsky (1221-1263) served as Prince of Novgorod from 1236-1263 Grand Prince of Vladimir from 1252-1263 during some of medieval Rus' most difficult times.

He rose to legendary status on account of his military victories over German and Swedish invaders while agreeing to pay tribute to the powerful Golden Horde.



Александр Ярославич Невский

Canonized as a Russian Orthodox Church saint in 1547, in 2008 he was named the greatest hero and the greatest Russian of all time.

- Prince Aleksandr Nevsky, originally Aleksandr Yaroslavich, halted the eastward drive of both the Swede (1240) and the German (1242) invaders but collaborated with Batu Khan's Mongols in imposing their rule on Russia.
- Alexander, second son of Prince Yaroslav Vsevolodovich, had scant chance to claim his father's throne of Vladimir. In 1236, however, he was summoned by the Novgorodians to become prince of Novgorod and to lead their military defence.
- In 1240, aged 18, he defeated a major Swedish army at the Neva River by a surprise dawn attack, earning name "Nevsky".
- His popularity with the common people worsened relations with the Novgorod boyars (nobility) and he was soon sacked.



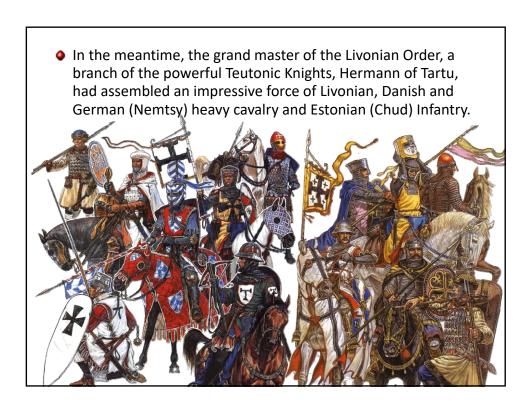
When the crusading Livonian Order captured Novgorod's vassal city of Pskov, the Council begged him to return, so in Spring 1241 he left exile, gathered an army, and went after the Livonians.

#### Prince Andrey II Yaroslavich (Andrey II of Vladimir)

- Prince Andrey II Yaroslavich (c. 1222 1264), younger brother of Alexander Nevsky, was the third son of Yaroslav II, Grand Duke of Vladimir.
- Andrey joined Alexander to defeat the invading Teutonic Knights in the Battle on the Ice.
- When his father died, Andrey was appointed Grand Duke of Vladimir by Guyuk khan, leader of the Golden Horde in Mongolia.



- Attempts to assert independence from the Horde were defeated by a punitive expedition. Andrey fled to Sweden.
- Seven years later, Andrey travelled south and successfully sought pardon from the Horde. Brother Alexander Nevsky, then Grand Duke of Vladimir, granted Andrey the easternmost lands in Vladimir along the Volga River.



Teutonic and Livorian Knights wore the Crusaders' Cross to show their commission from Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II's puppet Pope Celestine IV\* to conquer the pagan lands of Rus', home to the Russian Orthodox branch of Christianity. Over half of Catholic Crusades were directed against other Christians.



Frederick II held two cardinals hostage to ensure Celestine IV's election. \*Alas, the pope died after 17 days in office, leaving the office vacant for 1½ years (sede vacante) until election of Pope Innocent IV in 1243.

Innocent IV authorised torture to extract confessions during the Inquisition. His term is perhaps best remembered for the torture of Galileo (earth around the sun).



#### The stage was set for battle

- Hermann of Tartu, prince-bishop of Dorpat, Grand Master of the Livonian Order, a branch of the powerful Teutonic Knights, had gathered an impressive force of Livonian, Danish and German (Nemtsy) heavy cavalry and Estonian (Chud) Infantry.
- Nemsky's Novgorod militia armed with pikes, swords, maces, axes and chain mail armor faced a modern army of knights, mounted on horseback, clad in thick plate and mail armor, with their retinues.
- It should be no contest!

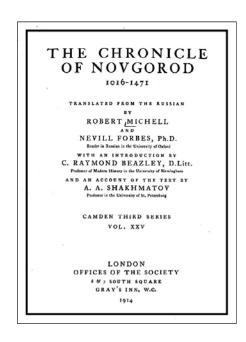
# Terminology

- немцы (nemtsy). For centuries, Russians referred to almost all foreigners as "Nemtsy, because their ignorance of Russian rendered them mute"
- Американский. Today they speak of "Amerikantsy" whenever they are talking about a foreigner they think embodies "threats and homosexuality."
- кнуаз (Knyaz). Means "Prince" or "Chieftan".
- цхуд (Chud). Finnic peoples in the area of what is now Estonia, Karelia and northwestern Russia.
- боырс (boyars). Aristocracy (one level below royalty)
- друзхина (druzhina). Retinue in service of a chieftain. Bodyguards.
- Борисъ и Глъбъ (Boris and Gleb). The first Russian saints.

#### Saints Boris (986-1015) and Gleb (987-1015)

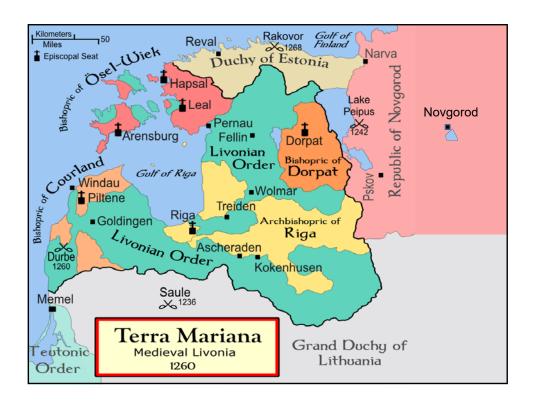
- Boris and Gleb, whose Christian names were Roman and David, were the first saints canonized in Kievan Rus' after the Christianization of the country in AD 988.
- Favourite younger children of Vladimir the Great, Boris was prince of Rostov and heir apparent to Vladimir's throne. Upon Vladimir's death, Boris said, "Be it not for me to raise my hand against my elder brother. Now that my father has passed away, let him take the place of my father in my heart."
- However, upon Vladimir's death, his elder brother Sviatopolk the Accursed, seized the throne and had both sinless, blameless, and otherwise wonderful youths assassinated.





# Per the Chronicle of Robgorod 1016-1471





# Новгородская первая летопись The Chronicle of Novgorod, 1016-1471

- A.D. 1242. Knyaz (Prince) Olexander with the men of Novgorod and with his brother Andrei and the men of the lower country went in the winter in great strength against the land of the Chud (чудь, Estonian) people, against the Nemtsy (немцы, Germans), that they might not boast, saying: "We will humble the Sloven race under us," for Pskov was already taken, and its leaders in prison.
- And Knyaz (Prince) Olexander occupied all the roads right up to Pleskov; and he cleared Pleskov, seized the Nemtsy and Chud men, and having bound them in chains, sent them to be imprisoned in Novgorod, and himself went against the Chud people.
- And when they came to their land, he let loose his whole force to provide for themselves. And Domash Tverdislavich and Kerbet were scouring the country and the Nemtsy and Chud men met them by a bridge; and they fought there, and there they killed Domash, brother of the Posadnik (посадник, mayor), an honest man, and others with him, and others again they took with their hands, and others escaped to the troops of the Knyaz.

And the Knyaz turned back to the lake and the Nemtsy and Chud men went after them. Seeing this, Knyaz Olexander and all the men of Novgorod drew up their forces by Lake Chud at Uzmen by the Raven's Rock; and the Nemtsy and Chud men rode at them driving themselves like a wedge through their army.



And there was a great slaughter of Nemtsy and Chud men. And God and St. Sophia and the Holy Martyrs Boris and Gleb, for whose sake the men of Novgorod shed their blood, by the great prayers of those Saints, God helped Knyaz Alexander.



And the Nemtsy fell there and the Chud men gave shoulder, and pursuing them fought with them on the ice, seven versts (km) short of the Subol shore. And there fell of the Chud men a countless number; and of the Nemtsy 400, and 50 they took with their hands and brought to Novgorod.

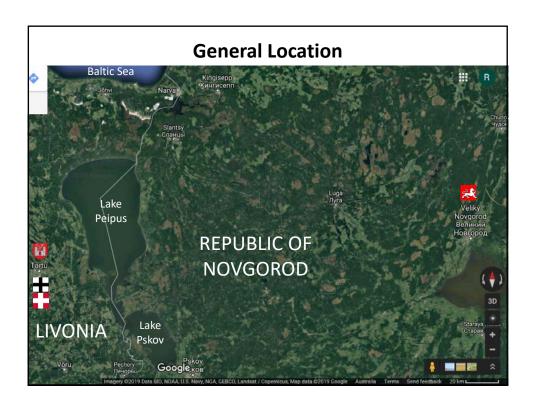


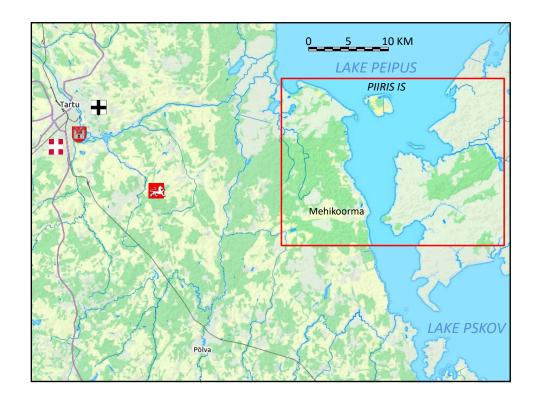
And they fought on April 5, on a Saturday, the Commemoration Day of the 'Holy Martyr Feodul, to the glory of the Holy Mother of God. The same year the Nemtsy sent with greeting, in the absence of the Knyaz:

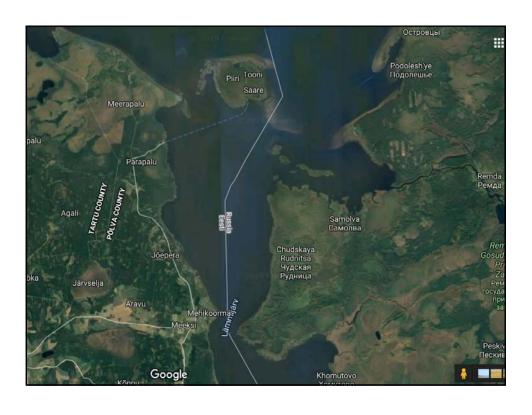
"The land of the Vod people, of Luga,
Pleskov, and Lotygola, which we
invaded with the sword, from all this
we withdraw, and those of your men
whom we have taken we will
exchange, we will let go yours, and
you let go ours."

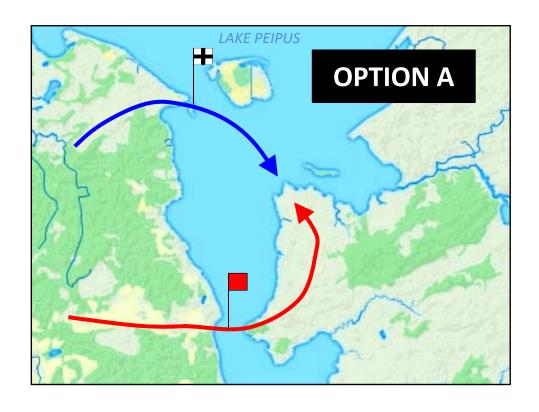
And they let go the Pleskov hostages, and made peace.

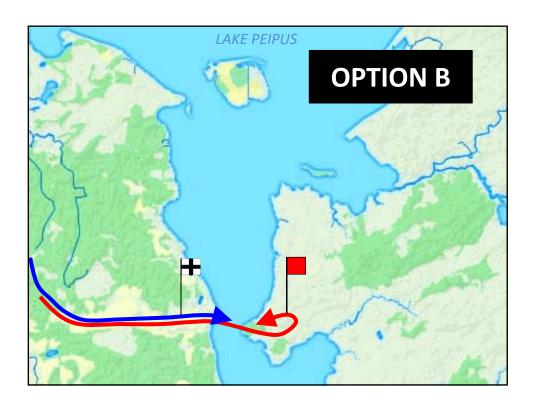


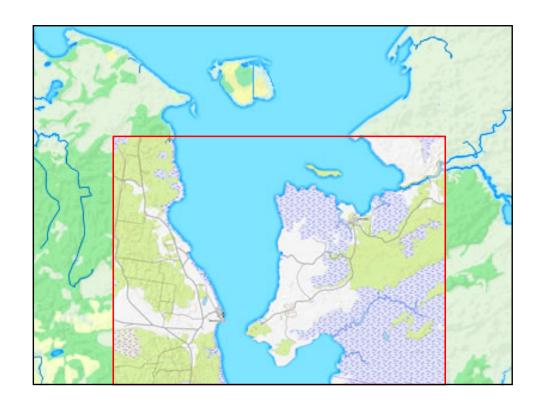


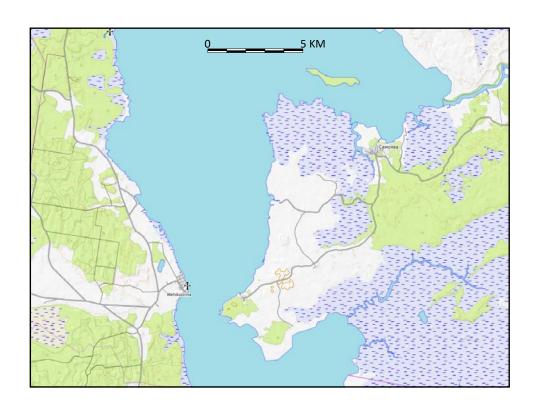


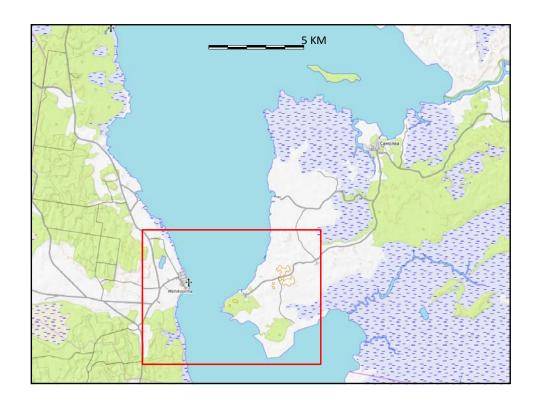






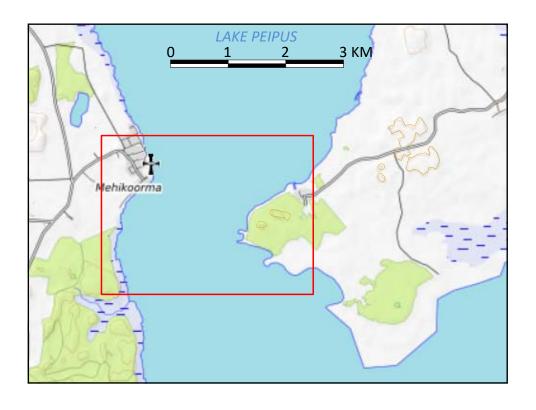




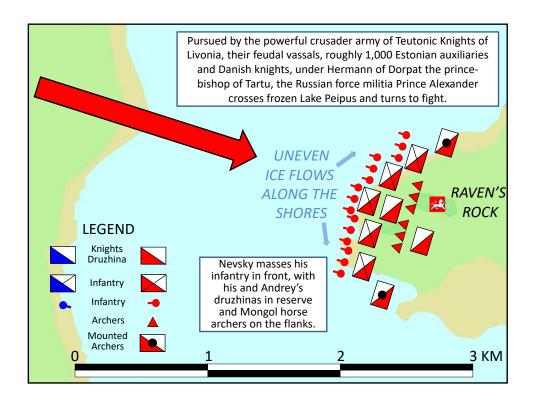


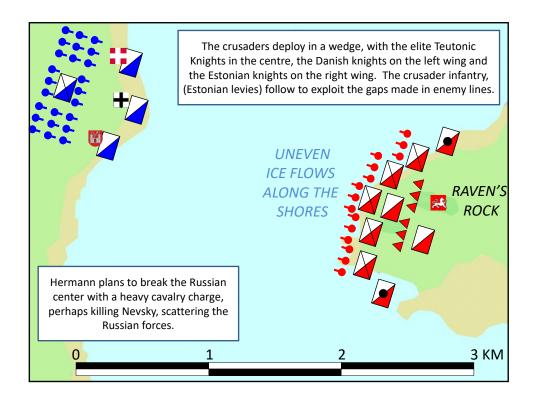




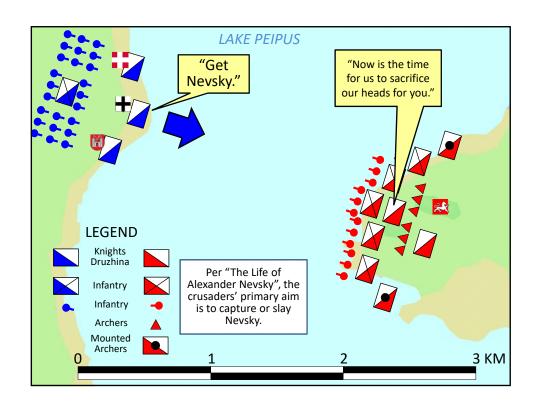


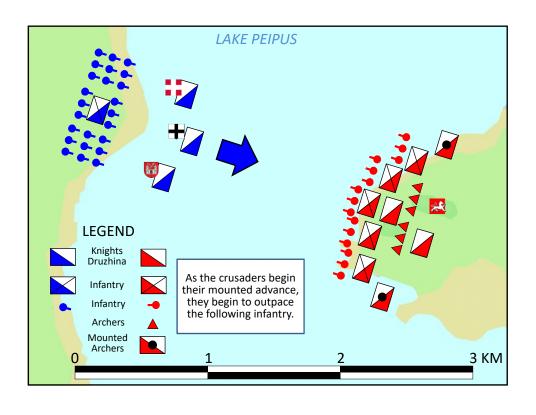


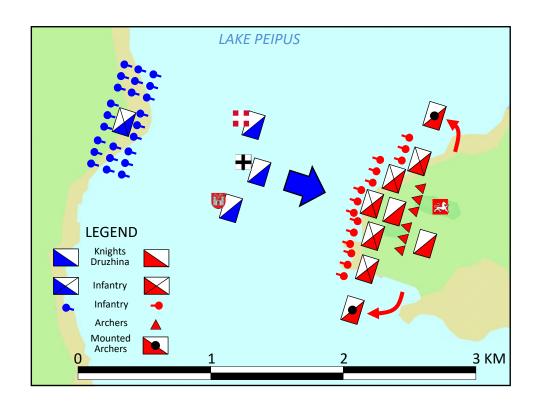


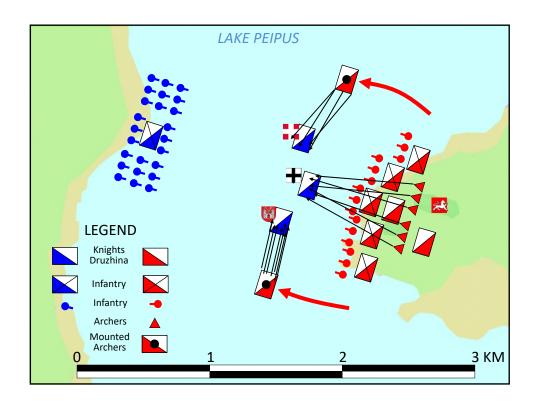


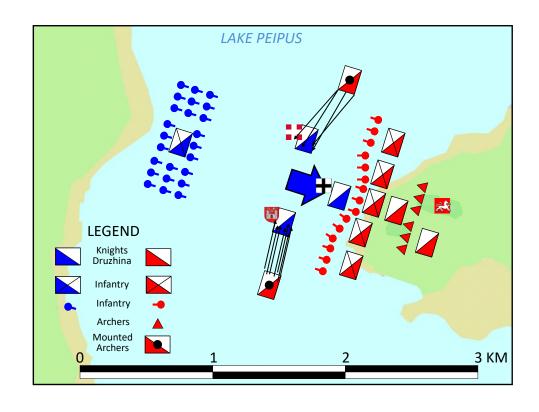




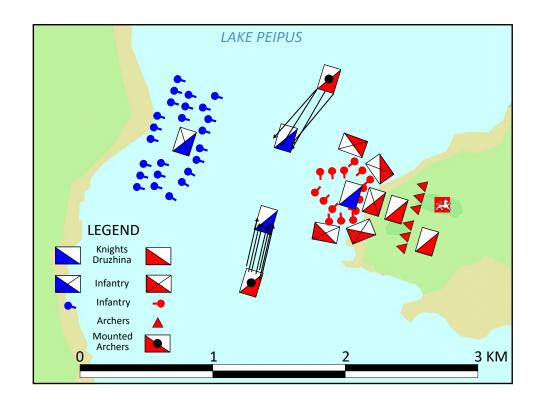


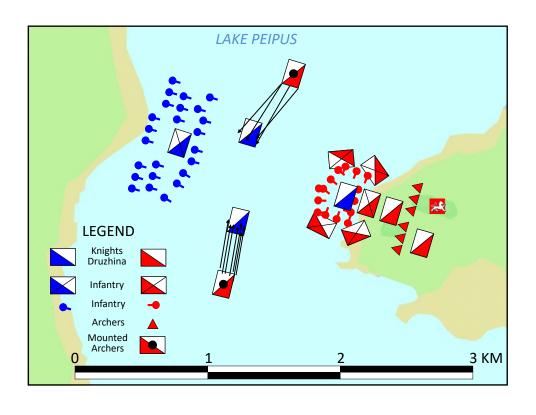


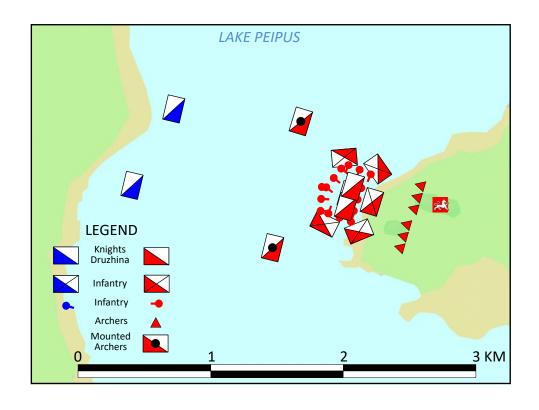


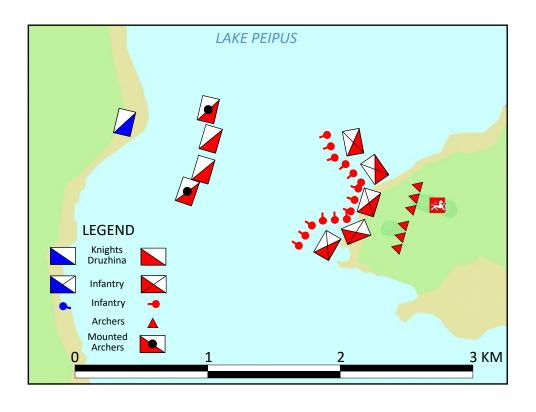
















#### The Aftermath

- Nevsky offered lenient peace terms which Hermann readily accepted:
  - the Crusaders withdrew from all Novgorodian lands and
  - each side released its prisoners.
- The Crusaders' defeat damaged their prestige, resulting in revolts against the Teutonic Knights and Danes in Prussia and Estonia respectively.
- Nevsky used the victory to consolidate Novgorodian rule in the Arctic north and Ural mountains.
- Nevsky then ceded to Mongol rule when they returned, collecting taxes on their behalf and crushing anti-Mongol revolts, including one initiated by his brother, Andrey.



- For his efforts, Alexander was proclaimed Grand Duke of Vladimir by the Khan of the Golden Horde in 1252, marking the foundations for future tsars.
- Alexander's victory was an important early step in the founding and development of the Grand Duchy of Moscow, in his will he gave the tiny principality of Moscow (500 square miles) to his son Daniel, who became the first prince of Moscow.
- Alexander Nevsky was proclaimed a Saint of the Orthodox Church by Metropolitan Macarius in 1547

