

leaders – Igor Konukhov and Arthur Romanenko – first came down into the Yekaterina the Great fort (#3) in 1998 seeking for mysteries of the city underground. They found neither ghosts nor treasures but were stunned by the perfection of engineering ideas realized by tsarist builders.

“It is always dry in the forts of the Vladivostok Fortress – its drainage system was thought out well enough, - says Romanenko. – The forts themselves can survive a thousand years more, because the concrete, the fortifications were made of, was applied with layers, and each layer was tamped with stems of larch-trees manually”.

With time, activity of the Vladivostok digger club expanded significantly – having touched the history of the city, guys saw how vulnerable it is and how barbarously our contemporaries treat it. The Pacific Navy servants began literally bursting the fort #5 for spares, and if it had not been historians, reporters and diggers who managed to raise alarm in time and draw society’s attention to that crime, the fort would have ceased to exist already. Weekly raids of the club members helped to safe

the 180m artillery guns that some “skilled craftsmen” tried to saw up for scrap metal and sell.

In order to teach the growing generation to love our native city, the club conducts excursions about the forts of the Vladivostok Fortress and Soviet tunnels, where schoolchildren can get to know the history of building of those military constructions.

“Russian people remained in Vladivostok only because the city was strengthened so good, - believes Arthur Romanenko. – The Japanese twice gave up the idea of assaulting it – in the Russo-Japanese War and in the World War II. The Chinese also intended to attack in 1970. That is why it is so important to preserve and maintain all that helped us to keep our land”.

*To learn more about the underground itineraries you can come to Vladivostok Digger Club’s site <http://www.vtc.ru/~vladdig/>. Quite soon citizens will see club’s magazine and read about the Vladivostok Fortress as well as myths and legends connected to the city’s underground world.*



Когда-то в этом зале все было готово для управления Приморским краем, сейчас - только обломки бывшего  
Formerly, everything in this hall was ready for governing Primorsky Krai; now it is only ruins of the past