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NEVER BEFORE

№ 43



Special issue dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War

The Contribution of My Family to Our Victory

The special issue of «Never Before» is devoted to the 80th anniversary of our Victory in the Great Patriotic War. On the eve of this holiday at the request of the English Chair for Science Departments more than 1100 first year students wrote essays on the topic “The Contribution of My Family to Our Victory”. Students wrote both about the role of their families in our victory in the Great Patriotic War and the contribution to the victory in Special Military Operation. Today we publish some of their works.



My great-grandfather Ivlev Peter Egorovich began to take part in the Great Patriotic war on the 23rd of July 1941 in demining troops of the Central frontline. In September he was wounded in the leg and after the treatment in the hospital he was sent to the artillery regiment in the Town Fastov where he was again wounded, this time in the jaw. Then there was Stalingrad... My great-grandfather did not like to tell about that terrible battle but he told many times how Field marshal Paulus was captured. Here are some facts from the historical documents: “The officer of the 38th infantry brigade Fyodor Ilchenko came to the front line on the 30th of January 1943. Soldiers of the brigade were having heavy fighting going to the center of the city. A German major was captured in one of the houses. After the interrogation he said that Paulus was in the basement of one of the houses on the central square of Stalingrad. Ilchenko passed that information with the help of radio to the brigade commander and was given an order...”

Ilchenko, together with the commander Latishev, translator Stepanov and two submachine gunners went to the ruined department store in order to capture Paulus. We don't know anything about those two submachine gunners. Their names are unknown... But they are not unknown for our family. One of

them was my great-grandfather Pyotr. He recalled: “Paulus was captured in the basement but he didn't want to go out till a Soviet officer took his weapon. There were no generals at that moment there. A junior officer (Ilchenko) put on a military form with the epaulets of the general and took away Paulus' weapon. Field marshal went out of the basement: he was tall, thin, with his hands back, but he had proud expression on the face as though his army was not defeated. He was pale, his eyes were tired”.



Our family keeps my great-grandfather's memory about that event though the historical documents describe it in another way. Great-grandfather was given the medal “For defense of Stalingrad” and the order of the Red Star for bravery and heroism during the fights in Stalingrad.

Nina Nekrasova, Department of Applied Mathematics, Informatics and Mechanics

This year our country celebrates the 80th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War. From the stories of my relatives, I've come to the conclusion that there is no such a family in our country that is not affected by the war...

I have a big, close-knit family. Having studied the history of my family, I learned that some of them fought on the battlefields, while others worked in the rear. Everyone tried to contribute to the Victory over the German invaders. My relatives made an invaluable contribution to the Victory: Maria Sergeevna Zinovieva and Nikolai Nikolaevich Zinoviev

were home front workers, while Zhilin Ivan Sergeevich was a sapper in the Great Patriotic War.

At the moment, a Special Military Operation is taking place in our country. Many of my relatives are involved in it. My great-uncle, Rostislav Leonov, a lieutenant colonel, was awarded the Order of Military Merit. He is currently serving in the Donetsk People's Republic.

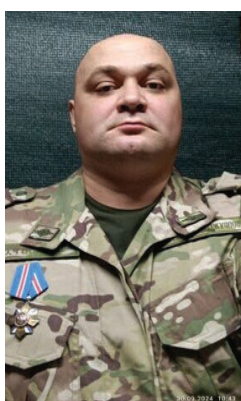
My second cousin, Vilen Nikolaevich Kotenev, also participates in the Special War Operation. He is on the battlefield right now in the Donetsk People's Republic. My godfather – Roman Mikhailovich Medvedev also fights at the SWO. My great-uncle Roman Eldarovich Sadykov was also at the SWO. He went on a combat mission in the Krasnolimansk area and is still missing since August 21, 2022.



Vladislav Yuryevich Lytnev (19.08.1993 – 24. 01.2025) is a special pride of our family. He sacrificed his life for our future Victory. He died while performing a combat mission in the Luhansk region in the Holy Kremennoe direction and was posthumously awarded the Order of Courage.

I am proud of my relatives: of those who gave their lives for peace and those who are fighting now for the sake of future victory. Victory will be ours!

Timofey Zinov'ev, Department of Computer Sciences



It is difficult to forget the suffering and horror endured by people during the Great Patriotic War. Countless lives were lost – many tortured to death, forced into labor in Germany, and countless others never returned from concentration camps. The war left behind only ruins and shattered destinies. But people did not give up; they did everything to defeat the fascists once and for all.

My great-grandmother, Maria Alexandrovna, was also a participant of the Great Patriotic War and contributed to our Victory.



In 1942, she began working as a nurse at the Hospital for the Lightly Wounded № 2029. She was not yet 18 years old. For nearly four years, she moved from place to place with the frontline hospital, which followed the army. The hospital was set up in various locations: schools, residential buildings, and sometimes simply in the forest.

She had to perform a variety of tasks: treating and bandaging wounds, washing and drying bandages (as they were in short supply), helping with cooking, as well as listening to and comforting soldiers who had lost their families and comrades-in-arms. But the hardest part was coping with losses. The hospital was only called “for the lightly wounded” – soldiers with various injuries were brought there. Not all could be saved and healed. Many died. They were buried near the hospital, but the graves were shallow. To later find and rebury them, hands were left protruding from the ground. This was horrifying, and even years later, she often dreamed of those hands sticking out of the earth.

She was not brave in the traditional sense; she didn't heroically fight on the front lines. She was a young

nurse in an evacuation hospital, but without her, without her work, the Victory in 1945 – which she met in Czechoslovakia, in the city of Olomouc – would not have been possible.

Ruslan Azarov Department of Computer Sciences

My great-grandmother Mariya Ivanovna Popova was born in 1930 in the village of Gvazda, near the town of Buturlinovka in the Voronezh region. During the Great Patriotic War, despite her young age, she contributed to the common cause of Victory, like many of her peers.

In the village of Gvazda many men went to the front, while the remaining women, the elderly and children took on heavy labor in the fields and on farms. They ensured a steady supply of food, which was vital for the army and the country.

My great-grandmother, as a teenager, worked alongside with adults. She participated in harvesting, cared for livestock, and performed other agricultural tasks. Her labor, like that of many other children at the time, was invaluable in maintaining the country's economy during wartime.

After the war Masha continued working in agriculture, contributing to the country's recovery. Her life is an example of firmness and dedication – the qualities that defined her generation.



The fate of people like my great-grandmother reminds us of the importance of every contribution to the common cause and proves that even in the hardest times the human spirit can overcome any challenge.

Anton Kulakov Department of Computer Sciences

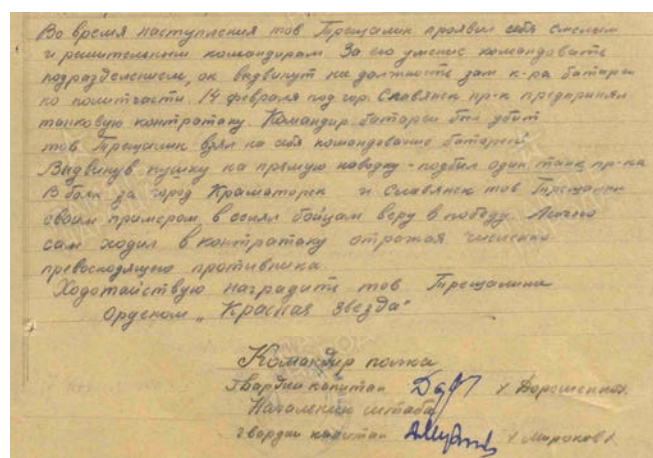
The Contribution of My Family to Our Victory

I am proud that my great-grandfather, Ivan Ivanovich Treshchalin, was part of my family. He was born on June 25, 1918, in the village of Kashirskoe, Voronezh region.



When the Great Patriotic War began, he went to the front. He proved to be a brave commander and was promoted to deputy battery commander. On February 14 near Slavyansk, his commander was killed, and he took command. He personally moved the gun to direct fire and destroyed an enemy tank. In battles for Kramatorsk and Slavyansk, he inspired soldiers with his example and even led a counterattack, fighting off a stronger enemy force.

During the Berlin operation, he once again showed courage. On the Borovsk bridgehead, he was among the first to cross the Spree River. While in the infantry ranks, he used precise fire to destroy enemy forces, clearing the city block by block and helping advance to the center of Berlin. For his bravery, he received many awards, including the Order of the Red Banner, the Order of the Patriotic War (1st and 2nd Class), and the Medal "For the Capture of Berlin."



After his service ended in 1947, he settled in Krasny Log. He became the headmaster of the local school where he met his wife, Anna Ivanovna, a math teacher. Together, they built a happy life, raising children and passing to them real values.

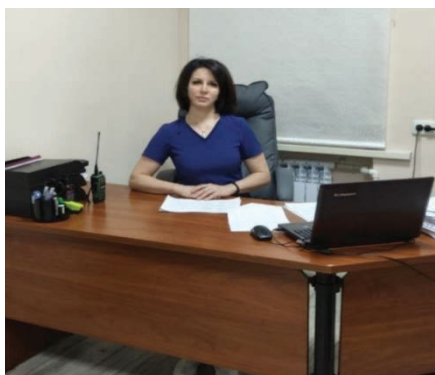
His courage and love for his homeland remain an inspiration. True heroes are not only found in books but also in our own families.

Ilya Reshetnikov, Department of Computer Sciences

My mother Elena is the chief of a military hospital near an active combat zone. Her life is a testament of unwavering dedication, leadership, and compassion. Her role transcends the ordinary; it is a calling that demands courage, sacrifice, and an unyielding commitment to saving lives amid the horrors of war.

The military hospital she heads is not just a medical facility – it is a sanctuary for the wounded, a place where hope and despair collides. Hospital renovation, equipment and finding staff were my mother's responsibilities from the first days of her work in Donbass, and that's why her days begin before sunrise and end long after midnight. For her intensive work and making the hospital one of the leading ones in terms of the number of soldiers who returned to service after rehabilitation, my mother was awarded several state awards: "For the rescue of the dying", "For strengthening the defense of the Russian federation" and others.

The hospital, though fortified, is not immune to the dangers of war. While sirens wail and missiles strike nearby, shaking the walls, my mom refuses to seek shelter until every patient and staff member is secure. "They rely on me and I can't falter", she once said.



One day, an unexploded shell ended up under her office window. It was a great shock to her, and after the sappers cleared it, she began to use the shell casing as a vase for flowers, as a reminder of the danger she faces while doing her duty.

I must say that I am very proud of my mother. She is my inspiration, a living reminder that even in the bleakest moments one person's compassion can illuminate the path forward.

Nikolay Degtyarev, Department of Physics

My brother Pavel was mobilized to the Special Military Operation on September 23, 2022 and since that time has proven himself to be a true patriot, ready to defend the interests of our country, despite all dangers and difficulties.

Every day Pasha risks his life, performing difficult and important tasks. He participates not only in combat operations, but also provides assistance to the local population. At home we wait for him impatiently, we pray, we try to support him morally, sending letters and parcels. Organizations and charities in Novovoronezh help us with this: they weave nets, buy the necessary equipment, in general they try to do everything what the soldiers ask for. Pasha rarely tells details about what is happening "there", but even from fragments of phrases I understand how important and dangerous his work is. I know that he risked his life, carrying a wounded comrade after an explosion. Fortunately, everything ended well, and Pasha visits his colleague every vacation.



Pasha is never afraid of difficulties and always says: "I will help as much as I can." I am proud to have such a brother. His actions give me confidence that each of us at our own level can contribute to the common cause.

My brother's contribution to Special Military Operation is an example of true courage and patriotism. I hope that he will soon return home, where he is very much awaited. His exploits will remain in our memory and will become an important part of our family history.

Grabareva Sofia, Department of Pharmaceuticals

During the Great Patriotic War, each family made a significant contribution to achieving Victory.

My great-grandfather Georgiy Fyodorovich Polyakov went through the entire war and passed away 4 years before my mother was born. He was born on June 17th, 1912, in the village of Rudakovka, Penza region. He completed 4 grades of elementary school. Great-grandpa was a peasant and worked as a shepherd. Later he worked as a carpenter. In the 1930s, my great-grandfather finished junior lieutenant courses at the 181st Rifle Regiment in Achinsk, Krasnoyarsk region.

At the beginning of the Great Patriotic War, he was the deputy commander of a rifle battalion at the Leningrad Front in the 190th Guards Rifle Regiment, 63rd Guards Rifle Division, 30th Guards Rifle Corps. On March 13th, 1944, during the battle in the city of Narva, he was severely wounded in the thigh.



During the war my great-grandfather was promoted to the rank of major and received 5 government awards: two Orders of the Red Banner for combat distinctions, the Order of Suvorov 3rd rate, the medal "For the Defense

of Leningrad" and the medal "For the Victory over Germany". Unfortunately only one award has been preserved.

I am proud to be part of a family that has had such a significant impact on the history of our country.

Alina Povolotskaya, Department of Geography, Geocology and Tourism

80 years has already passed since the end of the Great Patriotic War, but we continue to keep the memory of those who gave their lives for the Motherland and the future. We all know such heroes as Alexey Maresiev, Ivan Panfilov and Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya. We are told about their exploits from childhood. But I want to tell about a man whose story is kept only in our family.

Ivan Dmitrievich Koltakov is my great-grandfather, my mom's grandfather. He was born in 1926 in the village of Devitsa, Semiluksky district. He studied to be a mechanical technician and in 1944 was sent to the front, where he served as a chauffeur. He was awarded the medals «For Victory over Germany» and «30 Years of the Soviet Army and Navy».

When I was at school, every year we went to the 'Immortal Regiment' procession with my great-grandfather's portrait. My mother wrote a poem 'My Grandfather' dedicated to him.

No one outside my family knows his name, but he is still a hero. The victory of our country was formed from the efforts of each person, whether it was a soldier, a medic, a mechanic, a chauffeur or a rear worker. It is our duty to remember the history of both our country and our own family.

Alena Romanova, Department of Chemistry

The Great Patriotic War left an indelible mark in the history of our country and in the lives of millions of people. Every family in Russia keeps the memory of their heroes who fought for freedom and peaceful future. My family is no exception.

My great-grandfather Alexander Timofeevich Chernyshov went to the front at the age of 18, still a young man. The war caught him at the very beginning of his adult life, but he, like many of his peers, did not hesitate to stand up for the defense of his homeland. He fought as a gun commander on the Baltic Front and then liberated Europe.

But the path to Victory was full of trials. In one of the battles my great-grandfather showed true heroism: he saved his comrade, risking his own life. Unfortunately, this feat did not go without consequences – he suffered a serious leg injury. A shrapnel that had lodged in the wound tormented him for many years. It was only in 1988 that doctors were able to remove it. Despite the severe injury, my great-grandfather never complained about his fate. He lived a worthy life, raised his children and grandchildren, and passed on to them his love for the Motherland and respect for the feat of the Soviet people.

I am proud of my great-grandfather and grateful to him for his feat. His life is an example of true courage and dedication to duty. We are to remember such heroes and pass on their stories to future generations so that the memory of the Great Victory lives on forever.

Anna Denisova, Department of Geology



МОЙ ДЕДУШКА

Он учил писать и говорить.
Он учил меня людей любить.
Вечерами в шахматы играть.
Все на свете знать и понимать.

По утрам он, как всегда, читал -
Он любил историю и знал.
И казалось в детстве мне всерьез:
Он ответит на любой вопрос!

Я любила вместе с ним читать
И с его медалями играть.
Может, к счастью!.. Может быть, увы!..
Для меня он - не Герой войны!

Двадцать лет уже он не со мной -
Мой Учитель и Наставник мой!
Вечно в моей памяти живой -
Для меня он больше, чем Герой!

Среди всех погостов и могил
Он всегда в числе Бессмертных был!
Может, к счастью!.. Может быть, увы!..
Для меня он - не Герой войны!

28.03.15

