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**Memory of the Heart**

I don’t know what war is. I have not experienced the horrors of war, I know about it only from the stories of my grandparents, books, films and television programs. But I am sure that nobody can forget about this war!

On June 22, 1941, Nazi Germany attacked the Soviet Union. All the people stood up for their country and freedom. It was a difficult journey. People fought without knowing their fate for a day ahead. During the Great Patriotic War, millions of people were wounded and killed. It is hard to describe how much grief, tears, and destruction the war has brought. Everything was for the front, for victory. Many children were left homeless, and many became orphans.

Our family carefully preserves and passes the memory of the events of the Great Patriotic War from generation to generation. Our great-grandfathers fought and lived to see this happy May 1945. Unfortunately, now they are no longer alive, but their memories and photos have been preserved.

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| https://sun9-30.userapi.com/impg/MQMXn9Iilazsy9bNIqcFjxdLWIBbisSG3xKDng/TkGB1mweho0.jpg?size=1201x1600&quality=96&sign=a35b8dca2572e07741c7babb872e3f65&type=album | I would like to begin my story about my great-grandfather Savik Yevgeny Kononovich. He was born on July 15, 1920 in the village of Zelenoe, Tolochinsky district, Vitebsk region. Eugene was 17 years old when his friends were called up for military service. And then he added one year to join the army with them. No one even thought that Zhenya would return only in the distant one thousand nine hundred and forty-six. After completing accelerated training at a tank school, Yevgeny Savik got into the Finnish War. And then during the Great Patriotic War, as part of a panzer division, he reached Berlin and signed on the wall of the Reichstag.  In 1941, my family thought that my great-grand |
| *Savik Yevgeny Kononovich* |

father was dead. And Eugene was shell-shocked and did not remember who he was, where he came from. He was in hospital for a long time and only a few months later wrote that he was alive. It turned out that during the battle in Latvia, an enemy shell hit his tank, an explosion occurred and the tank caught fire. Burning, all on fire, Eugene was able to get out of the tank. He rushed to the river and was able to put out the fire on himself. Then he ran to the hatch of the tank, began to pull out his comrades. So the whole crew was saved. Suddenly Yevgeny became ill and fell down near the tank. Then his comrades told him that a car had driven up to them, collecting the wounded, and had taken them all to the hospital.

My great-grandfather died at the age of 66, the concussion made itself felt at this age. My grandfather did not like to talk about the war, for sure it remained in his heart for a long time.

In our family, in addition to my great-grandfather Yevgeny, my great-grandfather Alexander Mikhailovich Shastovsky also fought. He was born on March 18, 1906 in the village of Markovo, Molodechno district, Minsk region. In the first days of the war, he and his fellow villagers were summoned to the military enlistment office, but when they arrived in the city, the military enlistment office was bombed by German planes. Great-grandfather Alexander spent several days making his way home to his native village through the swamps. Occupation, famine, forest. Only after the liberation of Molodechno, great-grandfather Alexander got to the front. All the years of the war, he walked the dusty roads of our country as a simple infantryman. In East Prussia, he was wounded in the arm and leg, his great-grandfather spent some time in the hospital, and then began to ask for the front. His comrades-in-arms were getting farther and farther away, and he didn't want to be left behind by his regiment. He was not discharged, so he escaped from the hospital and caught up with his regiment. But since he was not discharged from the hospital, his family was sent a funeral. And when the great-grandfather was able to write again, he wrote a letter home, but since his hand was damaged, the handwriting changed very much, and his wife did not immediately believe that he was writing to her.

Great-grandfather Alexander met the victory in the trenches near Berlin. It was only two years later that he was able to return home. The fighting took place after May 9, 1945. Not all German troops surrendered at once. He had to fight after the victory.

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| Great-grandfather was left in the service, given the rank of sergeant. He was offered to stay in the army, but he refused. Alexander Mikhailovich said that he should work on the land, raise his sons. So he returned home. Great-grandfather Alexander lived a decent and happy life and died on August 15, 1986. People are passing away, and the memory of them will live for centuries in their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren… Alexander Mikhailovich has grown a decent shift. His three sons and five grandchildren joined the soldiers' ranks and defended their homeland.  The front-line photos of our great-grandfathers are carefully kept in our family. Looking at the pictures, I understand that the victory does not age. A hundred years from now, it will be as young in our hearts as it was in the bright forty-fifth, because the soldiers who mined it were dazzlingly young. |  |
| *Shastovsky Alexander Mikhailovich* |

It is the duty of every human being to preserve the memory of this war! We are grateful to our great-grandfathers for defending the freedom of our country, so that today we can live under a peaceful sky!