



## Dear Friends!

I am pleased to welcome you to the February – March issue of our school English language newspaper. This issue of “School” is unusual as we have decided to have our school news and problems set aside for a while and devote the current issue of the newspaper to the event that everyone in this country (and not only in this country) is looking for – the 75 th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War and present the works of the students who took part in the project “The Great Patriotic war in the history of my family”

The editorial staff of “School” hope that all our readers will enjoy reading the best projects of the participants. So, open your hearts to the new issue of “School”

On behalf of the Editorial Staff  
Yours, Yekaterina Kondakova,  
Teacher of English,  
Editor-in-Chief of “School”

*Wait for me, I will come back.  
Don't give in to pain.  
Wait, when everything goes black  
Under heavy rain.  
Wait, when snow freezes heart,  
Hides the world in haze.  
Wait for me, we're not apart  
Till the end of days.  
Wait, when nothing gives you hope,  
Nothing strengthens faith.  
Wait, when at the end of rope  
You feel weak like wraith.  
Wait for me, I'll find the way  
To come back to you.  
Wait, forget what others say.  
I will make it through.  
Even when my blood, my son  
Lets me go for good,  
Even when my friends are done,  
Wait for me, you should!  
Do not stop or lose belief!  
Argue! Disagree!  
Don't surrender to your grief!  
Don't give up on me!  
Wait for me, I WILL come back!  
I will break through hell!  
I'll hold out! I'll attack!  
I will strike, rebel!  
No force can conquer me,  
It's not luck or fate...  
I'll come home safe and free  
Just because you wait.  
They will wonder with relief,  
How I stayed alive.  
I'll come back, cause your belief  
Helped me to survive.*

Konstantin Simonov

# The Great Patriotic War

## FROM VICTORY TO VICTORY The Background

**World War II** was the most **extensive** and **costly** armed conflict in the history of t

**World War II** was the most **extensive** and **costly** armed conflict in the history of the world, **involving** a great majority of the world's nations, being fought **simultaneously** in several major theatres, and costing tens of millions of lives. The war was fought between two groups of powers: the **alliance** of the British Commonwealth\*, the United States, the Soviet Union\*, China, and the **governments-in-exile** of France, Poland, and other occupied European countries, collectively known as the Allies\* (later, the United Nations\*); and the alliance of Germany, Italy, and Japan and their allies, collectively known as the Axis\*.

Most of the fighting **occurred** in the **European theatre** in and around Europe, and in the **Pacific theatre** in the Pacific Ocean and East Asia.

The German invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939 is the most common date for the start of World War II. Others **cite** the Japanese invasion of China on July 7, 1937 as the war's beginning, or even the 1931 Japanese **incursion** into Manchuria\*.

The war ended in Europe with the **surrender** of Germany on May 8, 1945, but continued in Asia and the Pacific until the **nuclear** bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki\* and the **subsequent** Japanese surrender on September 2, 1945.

*Remember!*

*In centuries,*

*In years – remember!*

*About those,*

*Who has never come,*

*Remember!*

*Do not cry!*

*In a throat, you must*

*Restrain groans,*

*Bitter groans.*

*Be worthy of heroes!*

*Be eternally worthy!*

*Robert Rozhdestvensky*



## The great Patriotic War in the history of my family

War is a terrible tragedy in the fate of the Mankind. It comes in people's lives and destroys them with explosions, shots and deaths. Unfortunately, numerous wars didn't spare our Homeland either. In the summer of 1941 the Great Patriotic War broke into the calm life of the entire nation.



At this terrible time every family suffered a loss, and not the only one. Many soldiers fell in fierce battles. Many soldiers and officers remained unknown and unidentified. Monuments and obelisks were erected to commemorate their memory. In the life of my family the Great Patriotic War also left its mark.

My great-grandmother Kutina Alexandra Mikhailovna was a participant in the Great Patriotic War. She was born in 1924 in the Penza region, in the village of Litvino. In 1942 she was drafted into the ranks of the Soviet Army.

In the Army Kutina A.M. proved to be a brave, selfless and disciplined fighter. In a short time she mastered the specialty of a combat scout. Kutina showed her skills in practice. Being in charge of the defense of military objects in the city of Kirovograd she tried not to miss a single enemy aircraft unidentified, promptly notified anti-aircraft artillery batteries about the flights of Nazi planes. In 1944 for her excellent skills of the intelligence service and her conscientious attitude to her military duties she was awarded the rank of Corporal and was promoted to the rank of senior intelligence officer. Continuing to improve her military skills, Corporal Kutina mastered the second specialty of a telephone operator and as an excellent trainee in combat training in the summer of 1944 she was awarded with the Badge of Honor "For combat duty in air defense forces".

She was active in public work, served as a role model in anti-aircraft machine gun teams and helped lagging comrades in military-training school to acquire the necessary skills, had a number of commendations from anti-aircraft high military officers. Continuing to improve her military skills, Corporal Kutina mastered the second specialty of a telephone operator and as an excellent trainee in combat training in the summer of 1944 she was awarded with the Badge of Honor "For combat duty in air defense forces".

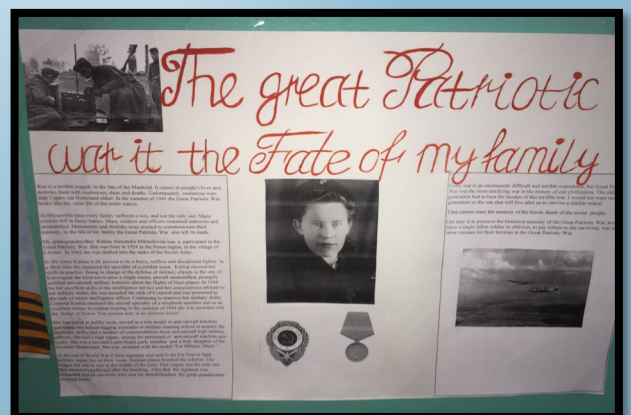
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At the end of World War II their regiment was sent to the Far East to fight military Japan, but on their route German planes bombed the echelon. The wagon she was in was in the middle of the train. That wagon was the only one that remained unaffected after the bombing. After that the regiment was disbanded and all survivors were sent for demobilization. My great-grandmother returned home.

Every war is an enormously difficult and terrible experience, but Great Patriotic War was the most terrifying war in the history of our civilization. The older generation had to bear the burden of this terrible war. I would not want our generation or the one that will live after us to survive a similar ordeal.

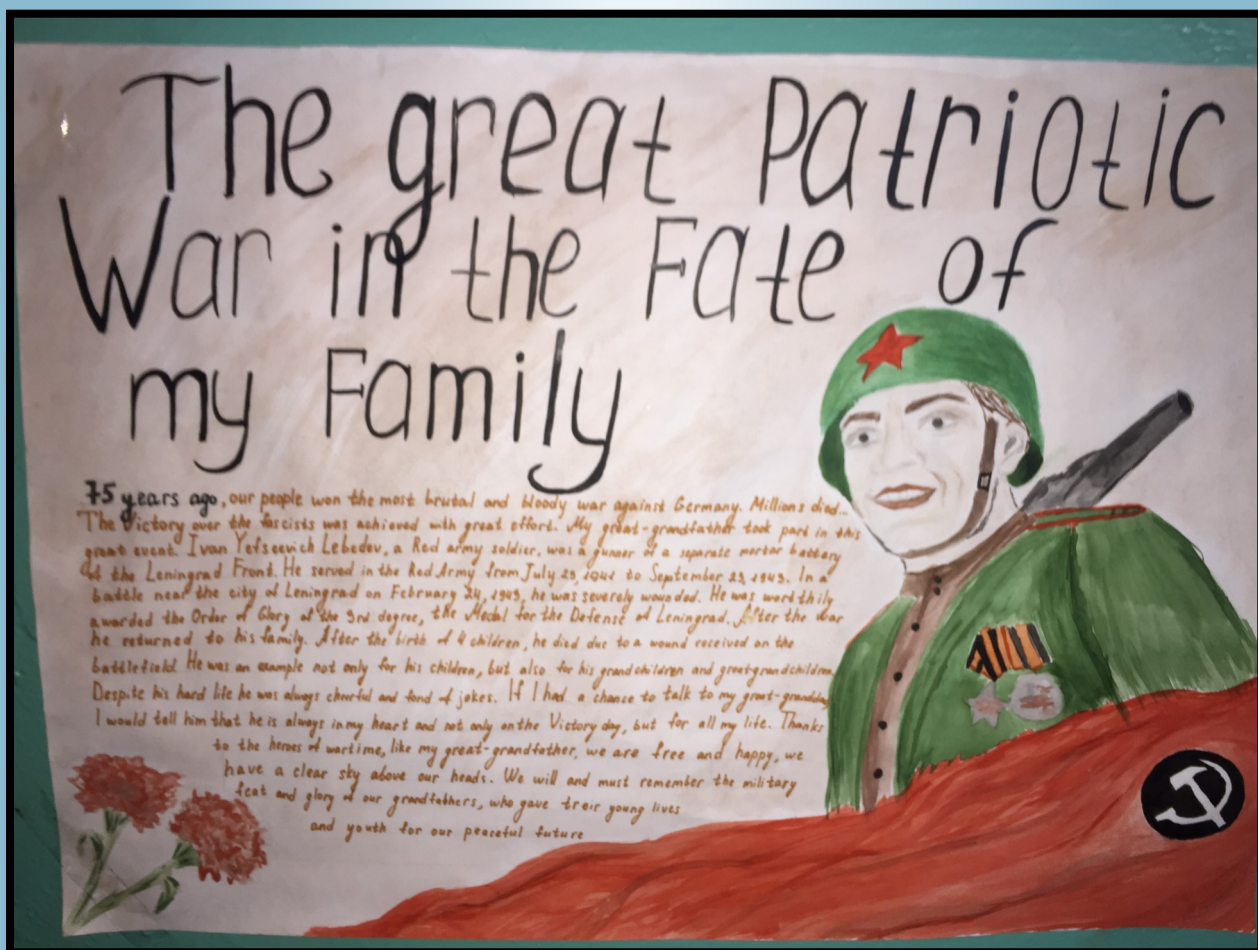
Time cannot erase the memory of the heroic deeds of the soviet people.

Our duty is to preserve the historical memory of the Great Patriotic War, not to leave a single fallen soldier in oblivion, to pay tribute to the surviving war and labor veterans for their heroism in the Great Patriotic War.





75 years ago, our people won the most brutal and bloody war against Germany. Millions died.... The Victory over the fascists was achieved with great effort. My great-grandfather took part in this great event. Ivan Yefseevich Lebedev, a Red army soldier, was a gunner of a separate mortar battery of the Leningrad Front. He served in the Red Army from July 23, 1941 to September 23, 1943. In a battle near the city of Leningrad on February 24, 1943, he was severely wounded. He was worthily awarded the Order of Glory of the 3rd degree, the Medal for the Defense of Leningrad. After the war he returned to his family. After the birth of 4 children, he died due to a wound received on the battlefield. He was an example not only for his children, but also for his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Despite his hard life he was always cheerful and fond of jokes. If I had a chance to talk to my great-granddad, I would tell him that he is always in my heart and not only on the Victory day, but for all my life. Thanks to the heroes of wartime, like my great-grandfather, we are free and happy, we have a clear sky above our heads. We will and must remember the military feat and glory of our Great-grandfathers, who gave their young lives, health, and youth for our peaceful future.

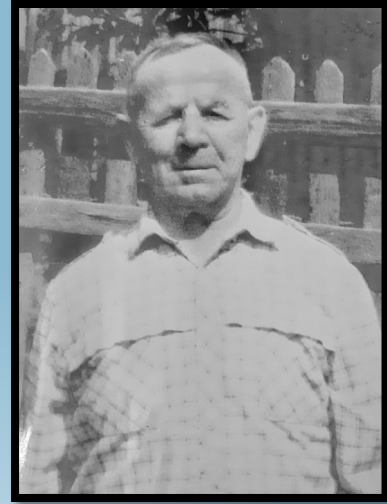


My great-grandfather, **Shamshaev Sergey Yakovlevich** was born in 1919, in the village of Kryazhim of Sosnovoborsk. When he was 18 years old he was drafted into the army. He served in the Leningrad region. The Great Patriotic war began when his service was coming up to the end. He participated in many battles. Once, namely on April 20, 1945, in one of them, during the firing of batteries at a cluster of enemy infantry in the forest area, the gun bolt jammed. Shamshaev under shelling the enemy for a short period of time fixed the shutter problems and made it possible to fire batteries.

April 28, 1945 during the shelling of firing positions in the area of the Airport (Berlin), the bursting of an enemy shell incapacitated the gun commander. Sergei Shamshaev during the battle, replacing the retired gun commander, commanded the gun for 37 days. During his work, the gun's fire destroyed 21.105 m / m, the enemy's battery in the vicinity of the Tiergarten park, the fire

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On April 30, 1945, gun fire ensured the advancement of rifle units. In the area of the Reichstag (Berlin), the guns destroyed 2/105 m / m and 2 large-caliber machine guns. Ensured the release of infantry in the Reichstag area.



For all his exploits, he was awarded the Order of the Red Star, the Order of the Great Patriotic War, the Zhukov's Medal, and many other medals.

*The Great Patriotic War  
in my family  
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On 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1941 all the radio stations of the Soviet Union broadcasted the official announcement about the attack of fascist Germany against our country. The Great Patriotic War began. It was the bloodiest war in the history of the Soviet Union. Fathers, brothers, husbands, and sons went to the front. Girls, children, and old men worked all day on machines at military plants and factories, on fields trying to provide the warriors at war battles with everything that was necessary. They believed it was a debt of honour to be useful to their homeland, even if the price was very high - their own lives. People lived with the motto " Everything to the Front – Everything for the Victory!"

During the years of war our people experienced all the torments: starvation, fears, pain and tremendous losses - mothers have seen their children taken to crematoriums or gas chambers. Thousands of people were shot and thrown into the pit. The strength of the German army was great, but the strength of the spirit of the Soviet soldiers was much greater. Millions were eager to defend their Motherland. One of them was my great - grandmother-Khlyupina Nata-

lia Alekseevna. The exact date of her birth is not known, but she went to the front at the age of about 23 years old. She was the chief cook in a regiment under Marshal Konev. She was his confidante and personally tasted every breakfast, lunch, and dinner that were served to the Marshal, because he could have been poisoned. My grandmother passed through Murmansk, Poland, and all the way to Berlin.

My great-granny's participation in the War was small but at the same time great, because the fight and work of every person resulted in the notable Victory of the Soviet people. She was awarded orders and medals for her heroic work and we are proud of her.

Soldiers and pilots, generals and admirals, doctors and nurses – the heroes of the Great Patriotic War – dreamed of peace, and that the war would be the last. We all know and should remember their heroic feats. The Victory in the Great Patriotic war was achieved thanks to the heroism of our people and my great-granny as



The Great Patriotic War left a deep mark in the history as well as in our hearts. There is hardly a family in our country which has not had a member participating in the war.

The Great Patriotic War did not pass by my family. I would like to tell about my great-grandfather Ivan Ivanovich Shumkin who went through the whole war.

My great-grandfather Ivan Ivanovich Shumkin was born in 1911. There were 4 brothers in the family. When the war broke out my great-grandfather worked as a tractor driver in a collective farm. He was only 30. On the first days of the war he was taken directly from the field to the Front. He left his young wife and son at home. He took his service in airfield service troops near Moscow. It was necessary to provide the Soviet aviation with spare parts and other necessary equipment. In addition, under severe winter conditions, moving aircraft parts and transportation material resources were delivered only by automobile transport. On the ground, helping the technical staff prepare planes for the next combat flights, drivers of special

trucks were desperate to save every minute. They we tried to deliver spare parts for the war planes as quickly as possible. My great-granddad didn't fight on the front line but he served his country best. His hard work and self-sacrifice help helped to bring our Great Victory closer. In May 1945 my great-grandfather was demobilized. He received many awards for his courage during the War.

Every year all members of my family go to the eternal flame to lay flowers there and venerate the memory of those who sacrificed their lives for the future and freedom of the future generations. I am strongly convinced that more time will pass but Russian people will still remember the greatness of spirit and patriotism of our nation during those terrible years of war. Thanks to my family I am aware of what it means to keep memory of our ancestors. I am proud of my great-grandfather and feel true appreciation and gratitude for what he did for us. I am happy that when I am a grown-up woman, I will have something special to tell about the Great Patriotic War to my own children.





The Great Patriotic War touched almost every family. Someone lost a father, someone lost a brother, someone lost a son. For our country the Great Patriotic war was the most bloody and brutal.

On the eve of the 75th anniversary of the Victory Day we again remember our heroic ancestors who didn't spare their lives at the battles of the war. We honour their heroism with great trepidation. No one is forgotten and nothing is forgotten.

I want and must tell you a story about my relative Maria Timofeevna Kulikova, a participant of the Great Patriotic War. She is my great-grandmother's elder sister. In 1942 she was sent to driver courses and three months later she was already at the Front.

A young girl saw with her own eyes the terrible horrors of the war. She was transporting ammunition and everything that was necessary for soldiers. Very often there were bombings and artillery shellings. And then she had to jump out of the car and run away from it and fall to the ground trying to save herself. Bombs flew from German planes like snow.

Once Mary's car struck a mine. A terrible thing happened there: the cabin with Maria drove through but the car body exploded. Maria and the cabin flew away several meters forward. She miraculously remained alive.

Maria was not only a driver, she also performed other tasks of the commander of her regiment. Once along with another girl she had to deliver secret documents to the headquarters of another detachments. It was a deep night and they could hear voices of the Germans. They had to be very careful. The girls knew that even



one wrong step could result in their being captured by the Germans.

Maria took an active part in the liberation of Krakow. She reached Berlin. On the day of the Victory in Berlin many Russian soldiers wrote their names on the building of the Reichstag. Maria also left her inscription: "The city of Penza, Maria Kulikova."

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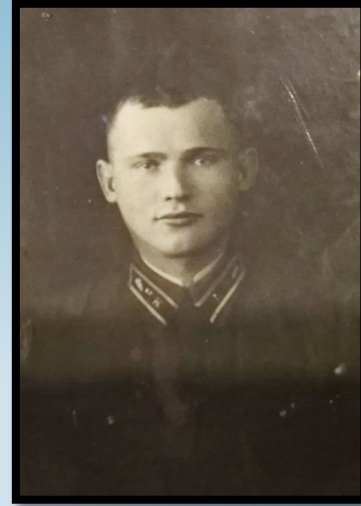
Every family has relatives who fought in the Great Patriotic War, and some died in it. Our family, like thousands of others, contributed to the overall victory over the enemy. I want to tell you about my great-grandfather. This is **Nikita Ivanovich Kuzmin**, he was a fair and strong-willed man. He was born in the village of Lunevo in Smolensk region. There he met his future wife Marfa. The Communist Party of the USSR dispatched Nikita Ivanovich to Penza region, so he and his family moved to the city of Kuznetsk, Penza region. There he began working in the City Party Committee.

When the Great Patriotic War broke out he went to the Front. Almost immediately he became a participant in the bloodiest war in the history of mankind.

My great-grandfather, Kazhaev Nikolai Stepanovich (1923-1941) was born into a family of peasants in the village of Ruchim. My father and mother worked in the fields, planted rye and wheat. But because there was not enough money, Nikolai and his father moved to Chelyabinsk in 1941.

In 1941, at the age of 18, Nikolai was conscripted to the Belorussian Front. In a week after his father had returned home, a death notice was received by the family that Nikolai had been killed in a battle.

In the village of Ruchim there is a monument to the Fallen Soldiers, which has the name of my great-grandfather, Kazhaev Nikolai Stepanovich.





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We love, remember and are proud of our Maria and people like her!

Eternal Glory to the Victors!



## Public Life

Victory Day is a national holiday in Russia. Public offices, schools and most businesses are closed for the celebrations. There may be changes in public transport routes due to parades and street performances.

## Background

Victory Day marks Germany's surrender to the Soviet Union in 1945. It became the end of the Great Patriotic War for the USSR, which lost about 25 million citizens in the four years of fighting. Interestingly, until its 20th anniversary (May 9, 1965), Victory Day was not a major holiday, unlike, for instance, May 1, and was considered a work day. Apart from the anniversaries in 1965 and 1985, Victory Day celebrations in the Soviet Union did not feature a military parade. This tradition started in 1995.

**Update:** In October 2012, Prime Minister, Dmitry Medvedev signed a decree that would extend the Victory Day Celebrations from Thursday, May 9, 2013 to Sunday, May 12, 2013.

## Symbols

Common symbols of Victory Day in Russia are:

- St. George ribbon – people wear this black-and-yellow ribbon on their clothes or tie it to car antennas as a sign of respect and remembrance.

- Red carnations – blood red is the color of the Soviet flag under which the veterans had fought. Laying an even number of red carnations at war memorial sites signifies mourning and remembrance.



Red Star medal – a military distinction for bravery.

The St George ribbon, red carnations and the Red Star Order are seen on Victory Day.

