

War and Peace: A Family's Legacy and Lessons for Humanity.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of victory in the Great Patriotic War. During the Great Patriotic War, more than 34 million people were mobilized into the Red Army. In addition, due to the war and its consequences, many suffered even without being at the front. Mikhail E. Nikolayev, our first president, believed that the family was the main institution of upbringing, emphasizing the importance of the family legacy in shaping both individuals and society.

Speaking of families, many in modern Russia have reminders of the war. Almost all families in the Soviet Union were involved in the war and felt its impact. Whether it was their fathers, grandfathers, or great-grandfathers who came back from the front, they may have brought trophies, belongings from their service, and other similar items. If they didn't return from the war, they would leave behind personal belongings, journal entries, and other traces that would become part of the family history.

However, there are also families whose members of family never returned from the front and left no trace behind, and their names were completely lost in military reports and records. My family is one of them.

As far as I am concerned, my great-great-grandfather, Stepan Gavrilovich Arkhipov, was drafted in 1941 and missing in action in 1942, during the Second Battle of Kharkov. There are no photos left of him, his entries in military journals of that time have still not been found in full. His service is not well-known, he became a nameless soldier.

Despite this, my family still cherishes his memory and has been searching for information about Stepan Gavrilovich for many years, bringing to mind the sorrow of other families.

Owing to this search, my uncle became a leader of a group in Staraya Russa and he is exploring the battlefields of that war, finding historical relics and even the remains of lost soldiers. He may not have found our

great-great-grandfather, but he gave other families in the same situation a drop of light on the fate of their own ancestors.

The tragedy that occurred then is still part of our consciousness. As a consequence, the post-Soviet people have carried within themselves the idea that there is no place for war since childhood.

To summarize, the war continues to exist, and it is still present alongside us. Mikhail E. Nikolayev's statement that spirituality will save the world emphasizes that the spiritual state within is more significant than external conflict resolution.

However, the hope for its end still rests in the hearts of many, including me. The fight was first and foremost for peace. We have learned a lot from them and we still have a lot to learn and I believe that after years of adversity and difficulties, we will be able to find a time when we will have a peaceful sky above our heads.

Alekseev Fedot,
11th grade student of Suntar Polytechnic Lyceum