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I would like to tell about my grandfather and my great-grandfather who fought in the Great Patriotic War and went through the war to the end.

In the photo (left) you can see my grandfather **Pashkin Anatoliy Semenovich**. He was born in Saratov Region in the village of Lvovka on December 22, 1922. He was called up for military service in the Red Army a year before the war, in 1940. He served in the 995th Assault Aviation Regiment of the 306th Assault Aviation Division of the 3rd Ukrainian Front. He received a medal “For Courage” on December 22, 1943, and a medal “For the exemplary performance of combat tasks of command at the front of the struggle against the Nazi invaders.” In 1943, during a combat flight, he received a shrapnel wound. This is what he tells about the event: “Our storm trooper was shot down. The armor plating around me was damaged. We flew down and cut the telegraph poles with our wings like butter with a knife. Then we hit the ground, and I was waiting for the explosion, but it didn’t happen. I was the last gunner-radio-operator in my storm trooper squadron to survive. All the other radio-operators in our squadron were killed by the Nazis.”

In the other photo (right) you can see my great-grandfather **Gusev Fedor Alexandrovich**. He was born in 1922 in Ivanovo Region, Lezhnevsky District, in the village of Anufrievo. Just like my grandfather Anatoly he went through the entire war to the end. He was Guard Staff Sergeant of a battery of 76 mm guns in the 356th Guards Rifle Regiment, Order of Kutuzov 3rd class, of the 107th Pervomayskaya Guards Rifle Division, Order of Suvorov 2nd class. He was awarded a medal “For Courage” for the fact that during the capture of the city of Neustadt, Austria, under heavy machine-gun and mortar fire of the enemy he established communication with the squadron, which contributed to firing on the hostile artillery position. By the end of the war, he consciously joined the All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks.

Also, my great-grandfather had Order of Glory 3rd class for a number of feats:

One of the documents states: “In the battle for elevation 568 (to the south of the city of Wilhelmsburg) he went ahead of the rifle company, scouted the enemy firing positions and found a way to pass the battery.” He tells about his experience: “Ahead, I heard the groans of the wounded.” Comrade Gusev quickly crawled up to them, provided first aid and carried 3 wounded officers off the battlefield.

The document dated May 18, 1945 states: “In the battle for the city of Traisen, Comrade Gusev spotted 3 enemy machine guns, which were destroyed by our artillery fire. With a carbine he killed 3 Germans and took 1 enemy soldier prisoner.”

He died in 1951 of tuberculosis.

