

Grandparents. Grand stories

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Being passionate about history is a wonderful thing. I love history, I love learning about our nation's past, about the brave deeds that define us. Although I have a lot of information about World War II, I am eager to learn everything I can.

The story about my great-grandfather is a completely true one. He was born in August 1920 and was the only one with his parents. Vasile Filipoiu was 22 years old when he enlisted in the Romanian army.

Although his parents were very sad to hear this news, he was very happy that he was given the chance to defend his homeland. The hardest battle that, after the war, he kept talking about was the battle of Cotul Donului (November 19, 1942). That is where the miracle happened.

Vasile from Mateești, Vâlcea County(my great-grandfather) was a very religious ordinary man. During the war he always kept the prayer book, which he had since he was little, in his uniform pocket. When the battle started he saw his friends falling to the ground, dead, waiting for the moment of his death. Vasile was hit by a bullet from a distance that was headed straight for his heart. He quickly looked at his uniform and saw how the bullet ricocheted after hitting his chest. He put his hand in, touched the place where he saw the bullet and realized that nothing had happened to him. He was stunned. He didn't understand. He put

his hand in again and felt something hard. Then he remembered that his prayer book was hidden in that pocket. He thought happily about the fact that he hadn't died.

I was surprised to hear that he was never wounded during the war. Vasile was the only one from his village who survived the Don Bend where approximately 150,000 died.

He kept the prayer book that I still have, and when I think about everything that happened there I ask myself a question: "Was what happened to my great-grandfather God-given, or was it destiny that made my great-grandfather return home healthy, get married, and have two successful daughters, one of whom is my grandmother?"

Here are some photos whit the prayer book:

The cover was cracked by the bullet and I glued it.



This is Prayer in times of war:

