

Our Grandparents and Their Great Stories

World War II profoundly marked the evolution of the Romanian state. Photos, documents and letters recall the dramas that Romanians went through from the beginning of the conflict, even without being on the front. Every person, soldier or civilian, suffered and their lives were forever changed.

War means great human and material losses. Today, we refer to it as a series of horrific stories from a time when our grandparents or great-grandparents lived.

In my great-grandmother's house, there is a portrait placed in a place of honor, depicting the face of a tall, slim, and handsome young man, dressed in military attire. This is the face my grandmother, Ana, always spoke about with great pride.

Despite the passage of time, it is easy to notice the spark in the eyes of the man who was my great-grandfather, a Romanian who fought in World War II.

With much emotion, I want to tell you about him, a hero, my great-grandfather, Gheorghe Erdeuş. Who are heroes? They are people, often anonymous, who performed great deeds of bravery, worthy of praise.

He was drafted into the war, fighting in World War II, and was deported to the USSR.

He cheated death twice, being shot in the arm and near the abdomen, with the bullet in his arm remaining there forever. My grandmother, Ana, his daughter, told me how my great-grandmother, who hadn't received news from him for a long time, thought he had died and raised a black flag at the gate, wearing mourning clothes.

Three months later, she was surprised to see my great-grandfather at home, injured in his leg, with his boots full of blood, but alive and with a heart full of joy from their reunion.

This is how our great-grandparents were: worthy Romanians, dignified and courageous people, fearless, who paid with their lives to defend the country. They proved, with their lives, their love for their people and their country, and went to the front, leaving their families at home, young wives, and small children, with a great ideal—the love for their nation. Some paid with their lives, others were left disabled, and most died defending their country!

I am proud of the courage and bravery of my great-grandfather, who instilled in me the most important values – faith, patriotism, and love. Heroes never die!!!

Here you can see him, a beautiful and courageous young man, with his wife!

