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FOSTERING PATRIOTISM THROUGH FAMILY HISTORY: THE EXPERIENCE OF STUDYING AN ANCESTOR'S COMBAT PATH

Abstract: *the article presents the story of a family hero – Egorov Mitrofanovich Mitrofanov, a native of the village of Napolnye Kotyaki in the Kanash District of Chuvashia and a participant in three wars. The author traces his life path, as well as his combat path during the Great Patriotic War as a member of the 8th Separate Local Rifle Unit of the Black Sea Fleet and the 62nd Marine Brigade. The conclusion is drawn about the importance of preserving the memory of heroes and passing it on to future generations. The material is addressed to a wide audience and can be used in patriotic and local history work.*

Keywords: *family memory, heroism, patriotic education, Chuvashia, preservation of historical memory.*

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ВОСПИТАНИЕ ПАТРИОТИЗМА ЧЕРЕЗ СЕМЕЙНУЮ ИСТОРИЮ: ОПЫТ ИЗУЧЕНИЯ БОЕВОГО ПУТИ ПРЕДКА

Аннотация: *в статье представлен рассказ о герое семьи – Егорове Митрофановиче Митрофанове, уроженце деревни Напольные Котяки Канашского района Чувашии, участнике трёх войн. Автор прослеживает его жизненный путь, а также боевой путь в годы Великой Отечественной войны в составе 8-го отдельного местного стрелкового подразделения Черноморского флота и 62-*

й морской бригады. Сделан вывод о важности сохранения памяти о героях и передачи её будущим поколениям. Материал адресован широкой аудитории и может использоваться в патриотической и краеведческой работе.

Ключевые слова: *семейная память, героизм, патриотическое воспитание, Чувашия, сохранение исторической памяти.*

Today I want to tell you about the hero of our family Egor Mitrofanovich Mitrofanov, who took part in three wars, including the Great Patriotic War.



Fig. 1

Egor Mitrofanovich Mitrofanov was born on April 18, 1897, Chuvashia ASSR, Kanashsky district, village Napolnye Kotyaki. His family was a large peasant family. His parents were ordinary peasants. Despite the difficulties of that time, his family always stuck together, supporting each other. After collectivization, Egor Mitrofanovich worked on a collective farm in his native village of Napolnye Kotyaki.

In 1914, when World War I began, Egor Mitrofanovich was only 17 years old. Despite his young age, he was drafted into the army and sent to the front. At that time,

the Russian Empire was fighting against Germany, Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire.

One of the significant episodes of this war was the *Battle of Warsaw* in 1915. About 250 thousand Russian soldiers took part in the Battle of Warsaw. They were opposed by German and Austro-Hungarian troops numbering about 180–200 thousand people.

In August 1915, Russian troops began an offensive on Warsaw, trying to break through the front and consolidate positions on the western border of the Russian Empire. However, the German troops actively defended themselves, using artillery and the strategy of «fire and maneuver». The Russian army suffered heavy losses, was unable to capture the city and was forced to retreat.

Despite significant efforts, the Russian army was unable to break through the defense of Warsaw and was forced to retreat, which influenced the development of events on the *Eastern Front*.

Soviet-Polish War (1920): After the 1917 Revolution and the end of the Russian Civil War, Egor Mitrofanovich found himself on the battlefield again. In 1920, he took part in the offensive on Warsaw as part of Mikhail Tukhachevsky's troops.

These troops were supposed to consolidate the position of Soviet Russia and spread revolutionary ideas to the West. However, the Polish army put up fierce resistance. During the battles, the Red Army initially advanced, but then, due to a lack of supplies and erroneous strategic decisions by the command, it was surrounded and forced to retreat. Many soldiers were captured, but Egor Mitrofanovich managed to survive and return to his homeland. It was a difficult war, and it left a deep mark on his life.

The Great Patriotic War (1941–1945): When the Great Patriotic War began, Egor Mitrofanovich was already 44 years old, but he did not stand aside and again went to defend the Motherland. In 1941, he joined the Red Army and was assigned to the 8th separate local rifle KavMOR of the Black Sea Fleet.

Battles near Mozdok (1942) :In June 1942, Egor Mitrofanovich was sent to the 62nd Naval Brigade, which fought near Mozdok, an important strategic point on the

Caucasian Front. Mozdok was an important point, as it controlled the approaches to the oil fields of Grozny and Baku, and was also the key to the defense of the Caucasus.

The Black Sea Fleet troops, including the 62nd Naval Brigade, numbering about 4 thousand people, took part in the battles near Mozdok against German troops numbering more than 10 thousand people. The German troops sought to break through the Caucasus in order to seize vital resources and secure their strategic positions. Fierce battles took place for every street, for every building.

Egor Mitrofanovich, being a light machine gunner, participated in repelling enemy attacks. In one of the battles, his crew came under fire, the second number of the machine gun crew was killed, and Egor Mitrofanovich himself was seriously wounded. Despite this, he did not abandon his weapon, continuing to fight and, overcoming the pain, pulled the machine gun and ammunition to the location of his unit, not allowing the enemy to capture the weapon.

Despite heavy losses, Soviet troops managed to hold Mozdok and prevent the enemy from breaking through deep into the Caucasus. This was an important battle that helped strengthen the defense in the Caucasus and prevent the advance of German troops towards the oil fields.

In September 1943, after being seriously wounded, Egor Mitrofanovich was sent for treatment to a hospital in the city of Baku. There he spent several months undergoing rehabilitation. Despite the injuries he suffered, he maintained his fortitude and always maintained a fighting spirit among other wounded soldiers.

For his heroism and courage in battle, Egor Mitrofanovich was awarded the This award was given only to the bravest fighters who showed personal courage in battle.

After all the wars he had survived, in 1945, Egor Mitrofanovich married Nina Fedorovna, and together they raised 4 children. Despite the difficult trials, he was able to start a family and pass on his values and life lessons to the next generation.

Egor Mitrofanovich was always a caring husband and father, his family was a real support for him in difficult times. He continued to work the land and raise children, passing on to them his love for the Motherland and his traditions. Egor Mitrofanovich proved himself to be a disciplined, honest and courageous fighter. Having gone through

three wars, he always remained faithful to his duty and contributed to the defense of the Motherland. His feat remains in the memory of the family, and we honor his courage.

The Great Patriotic War left a deep mark on the history of our country and every family. But Egor Mitrofanovich went through not only it, but also two other wars, showing an example of courage, fortitude and loyalty to the Motherland. His life is an example of unbending will and heroism. I am proud of the hero of our family and his exploits. We must remember the heroes who fought for our future and pass this memory on to future generations.