

How did the song of the planet change when the war began?

What sounds swept over the fields, what were the lagoons of the seas filled with, what entered the apartments through open windows? Oh, it was terrifying. I can only imagine it, but I saw a thing in the Cultural Center of my village that keeps a memory of them. This is an accordion, which belonged to Vasily Alexandrovich Muravyov, my countryman and hero of World War II.

Vasily Alexandrovich was born in Yb, the village where I live. As soon as Vasily turned 18 years old, he was mobilized to the front. He was a signalman, a machine gunner, a scout, who participated in many battles, was wounded several times, and his accordion was with him everywhere. After fierce battles, he would take it up, and over the scars of the earth a song would flow. The songs were about apple orchards, beloved girls, friendship and loyalty, dusty quiet roads leading home. In the battle of Warsaw, Vasily Alexandrovich was seriously wounded, and his loyal friend, the accordion, was killed by a fascist shell. For this battle, he was awarded the order of Glory, and the command gave him a new accordion. Vasily met Victory day in the hospital. After recovering, he returned to his native village. Orders and medals glittered on his chest, and he carried a new faithful friend in his hands.

And at the end of the war, Vasily Alexandrovich continued to sound like a song: he worked as a head of the Cultural Center and a music teacher at school. After he died in 1993, his family gave that accordion to the cultural workers of Yb village.

How did the song of the planet change when war began? I don't know. But the songs that the accordion sang I probably heard more than once. Now it is here, silent, and reminds us that peace, love and May flowers sound much better.