



Nikolay Fyodorovich Kyung (1917-2008)

1st photo was taken in the Brestskaya Fortress before the beginning of World War II

### **He was a born teacher**

Nikolay Kyung was the eighth child in a large and noisy family. His parents felt bound to teach their children to read and write. At the age of 9 Kolya got a card "**Down with illiteracy!**" and taught ordinary men and women, who came to classes from nearby villages, to read and write.

As a young man, Kyung entered the Vyazemskiy Pedagogical College, became a teacher, and before the war he worked at **junior high school**. In 1937, at the age of 20, he was called into the Red Army, and later he was assigned to the cadets of **the regimental school** located in the Brestskaya Fortress. On June 22, 1941, the fortress was bombed by the Nazis.

In October 1941 Kyung was wounded seriously and took refuge in a local village. There he was captured.

He went through several fascist camps in Saxony and Belgium, where he was a member of underground resistance groups. He organized sabotage in the mines, helped to draw maps of the area for those who were preparing to escape that's why he was in Buchenwald in 1943 .

There were a lot of children aged 7-12 in the death camp at that time. At the beginning of 1944 one of his comrades turned to Kung with an unusual idea .

«Nikolay, - said Levshenkov, - our comrades ask you to take up work in your profession».

«You're always joking» I said.

«No, I started seriously and will end with a joke: you will receive your salary later at home».

(from the book by Nikolay Kung "The Unbreakable by fate")

The underground resistance center decided to teach children to read and write, history, geography and other sciences. The prisoners of the camp took care of the captive children. They got them food and clothing **under threat of death**.

The people managed to get pencils, pens, some chalk and paper. There was even a blackboard and little **abacus** in the underground class. The German prisoners managed to steal several Russian textbooks from the warehouse, which happened to be there.

The children studied in the evenings after exhausting work. Nikolay Kyung taught them history and geography. "The children listened attentively, and I remembered my son Vovka." The school worked for 8 months and the Nazis never found out about it.

After the war Kyung began to work as a history teacher at school in Shcherbinka. He was a director for many years, took his students to places of military glory, held meetings with veterans. Nikolay Fyodorovich believed that **old age bypassed him** because he spent his whole life communicating with young guys. He retained a sense of humor until deep years and knew how to get along even with hooligans.

This year Kyung would have turned 103 years old, he passed away at the 92nd year of life. People

who knew Kung say he was an open and **benevolent** person. He corresponded with his former students for a long time, taking part in their destinies.

His stories are still heard during the lessons at his home school, they are preserved in the books "The War behind the Barbed Wire" and "The Unbreakable by Fate".

"Down with illiteracy!" - «Долой неграмотность!»

junior high school-младшие классы средней школы

the regimental school-полковая школа

under threat of death –под угрозой смерти

an abacus- счеты

old age bypassed him – старость обошла его стороной

benevolent-доброжелательный

**1. Read the text above and choose A,B or C for statements 1 to 5 .**

1) A young boy taught the people from the local villages.

A True B False C Not stated

2) He became a teacher at the age of 20.

A True B False C Not stated

3) In 1941 Kyung was wounded seriously in the leg.

A True B False C Not stated

4) Children did hard work in the death camp.

A True B False C Not stated

5) Nikolay Fyodorovich missed his son.

A True B False C Not stated

**2. Underline the parts of the text which show the correct answers.**