

Section A

Read this article carefully, and then answer the questions which follow.

By Caroline Wyatt, BBC Moscow correspondent

When Lina Panfilova, a sweetheart of a Scottish soldier during World War II, spoke to Caroline Wyatt, she had no idea what became of the young man who returned home at the end of the war. But then a listener got in touch, bringing full circle the events which began in Archangel in 1944.

As they said a last farewell by the harbour before he set sail, he never knew his young Russian girlfriend was to have their son, whom she called Stepan.

In the paranoia of the 1950s Soviet Union, Stalin showed no mercy to those who had consorted with what was now the enemy.

Gulag sentence

Lina was sent to a gulag prison camp, for the crime of loving a foreigner. For three harsh Siberian winters, she concentrated on surviving, so she could return to her son. And she did, but she never married and she never told him about his British father until years later, when she thought it was safe.

" I was never sorry about loving Thomas " Lina Panfilova

Stepan was in his 50s by the time he found out: surprised, pleased and curious to find out more - though nobody seemed to know what had happened to the young sailor after he left Russia.

There the story might have ended if it had not been for a listener to the BBC Radio programme *From Our Own Correspondent* - who got in touch to say she might have the answer. She had a friend, Graham, whose late uncle may have been the man the Panfilovas were looking for.

Reunited

In Russia, there are all too many stories of courage in the face of adversity. It is a place that has doled out adversity and hardship in generous measures for centuries. But there was something about Lina and her story that haunted me. Perhaps it was my first sight of her - in a black and white photograph in a book about the forgotten Russian sweethearts of World War II. Lina's face was unforgettable, her direct gaze reaching out from the page nearly 60 years on. The picture was taken the year she met Thomas McAdam at a dance hall in Archangel, and they fell in love. He was one of the British sailors helping the war effort in Russia, re-supplying the Red Army in the fight against Hitler. But when the war ended, he was posted back home.

I could hardly believe it, more than a year later, when I found myself in London with Lina. Now in her late 70s, Lina has at last been able to fulfil her promise to show her son his father's homeland. And not just that - they were staying with Stepan's British cousins, Graham and Diane, who had not known of each other's existence the year before.

Thanks to e-mails from Graham, Lina and Stepan had gradually filled in the missing years of Thomas McAdam's story.

They learned that he had died in 1980 after a happy and fulfilled life.

Both are sad that 50-year old Stepan never had the chance to meet his father. But he has found family and a welcome far warmer than he had ever expected.

We sit in a restaurant, and the noise at our table is indescribable. It is hard to believe these four people only met a few weeks ago.

Language barrier

Stepan sold his car to fund the trip to meet his English cousins, and it only occurred to them they had no common language when Lina and Stepan arrived. Friends had helped translate their e-mails. Stepan's first words at the airport - "my angliski not good" - made Graham's heart sink. How on earth would they talk to each other? Yet that has not been a problem.

There is a real feeling of connection between them all - the will to communicate and a few good phrase books transcending any barrier.

And I can see the family resemblance between Graham and Stepan that made them recognise each other the moment they met. Both are good-looking men, with strong faces and bright, piercing eyes. They swap childhood photos that show how like his father Stepan is, too. Stepan and Graham are both keen footballers, as were their fathers. They have talked a lot over the past few weeks - about history, about fate, about how different their lives have been, growing up in such different places.

For Stepan and Lina, who both grew up under communism, family was always the most important thing.

No regrets

He and Lina are looking forward to Graham visiting them in Archangel next month, his first trip to Russia. She looks across at her son and his cousin, and a warm smile spreads across her face.

"I always believed this would happen. I put my hope in God and I knew this day would come," she says. From her face though, it is clear Lina has no regrets.

"I was never sorry about loving Thomas," she tells me as I leave. "Even in the hardest times, I always remembered him with love."

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You should spend about 40 minutes on Section A.

In this section, you will be assessed on the quality of your **Reading**

1. What do we know about Thomas McAdam? List **FOUR** facts. **(4)**

2. Stepan and Lina speak no English and Graham speaks no Russian. How does the writer suggest there might be a language difficulty? How, surprisingly, is this overcome? **(6)**

3. This article is written by a reporter, Caroline Wyatt, who accompanies Lina and Stepan. What indications are there, throughout the article, that Caroline is witnessing the story, rather than being personally involved in it? **(6)**

4. Show how the writer is successful in using language to make the situation real to the reader. You should use examples from the text to support your answer. **(4)**

Total for Section A: 20 marks