



Sasha Antoshchuk

(Oleksandr Gennadijevitch Antoshchuk)

* 7.6.1970 † 10.11.2025 in Odessa

I mourn the loss of a man who became my email friend in 2016. Putin's ill-fated war against Ukraine prevented us from meeting in person. He now passed away suffering from the consequences of this war.

It was very pleasant, Sasha, to gradually get to know you better through email and to exchange many things, sending photos, music, and documents. Thank you for that! Your mother, Alla Vasilyevna, also took an interest in our contact.

Recent photos show a man who looks remarkably young for his age.

Sasha worked as a communications technician for the Ukrainian state railway and was not in the best of health. Both of these factors exempted him from military service. In January 2025, his mother Alla, with whom he lived, passed away, leaving him alone and without relatives.

His partner had left the country in the first year of the war and it was she, who helped me to learn about Sasha's passing. She describes him as a kind and generous man with a pure and shining soul. They both wanted to get back together after the war and spend their old age together.

How did we get in touch with each other? During World War II, forced laborers worked at the Hermann Weule Goslar machine factory (my father). I found their registration cards in the Goslar town archives. Among them were Sasha's grandparents, the blast furnace engineer Grigorij Antoshchuk and his wife, the doctor Anna, née Kusnjezova. They particularly caught my attention because they had a son, Gennadi Grigorjewitch Antoshchuk, in Goslar in March 1945, Sasha's father (see Manfred Weule, Ancestral soil of Harz mountains).

I wanted to get in touch with him, my contemporary, which I managed to do in 2016 through UNESCO's International Tracing Service in Arolsen, Germany. As Sasha told me in his first letter, his father was very happy about this contact, but passed away shortly afterwards. So I learned from his son Sasha how much his father had suffered under the coercive measures of Stalin against forced labourers and their families (cf. Manfred Weule, *Conversations Across Borders in: Unser Harz* 9/2022).

Sasha, we will not forget you and wish you and your partner a swift end to this terrible war.

Manfred Weule