A man who saved the human race

World war is a disastrous thing. There has only (luckily) been two so far, but humans all over the planet have suffered terrible casualties. We are very well informed about both of them, however, not many people know, that only 50 years ago, the world was on the edge of starting a nuclear war.

In 1962, there were a lot of conflicts occurring, especially between Russia and the United States, for example Russia placing several submarines near Cuba. One of those carried a nuclear torpedo. In late October, the American government sent depth charges to that submarine so it would identify itself. The submarine had lost contact with Moscow, they hadn't heard from their leaders for a week or more, thus, they had no clue what the situation looked like, whether the war had started or not. The captain of the submarine assumed it might have begun so he wanted to release the nuclear torpedo. It was not only his decision to make, however. There were needed approvals of all three men in charge on that submarine. One of them was the lieutenant of a whole submarinal fleet, Vasili Arkhipov. He didn't agree with setting off the torpedo, which would have sparked worldwide nuclear war.

Such attack from Russia on the United States to a horrific bloodshed. Many countries had developed a great amount of nuclear weapons which they would not hesitate to use against one another. It is acceptable to say that this action could wipe out the entire human race completely. Although Arkhimov's decision from a possible catastrophic destroyal, it does not seem being talked about and appreciated enough.

It is our duty to remember the man who prevented the world's end. A single man can change the course of the future.

Ema Zacharová
IV.A